

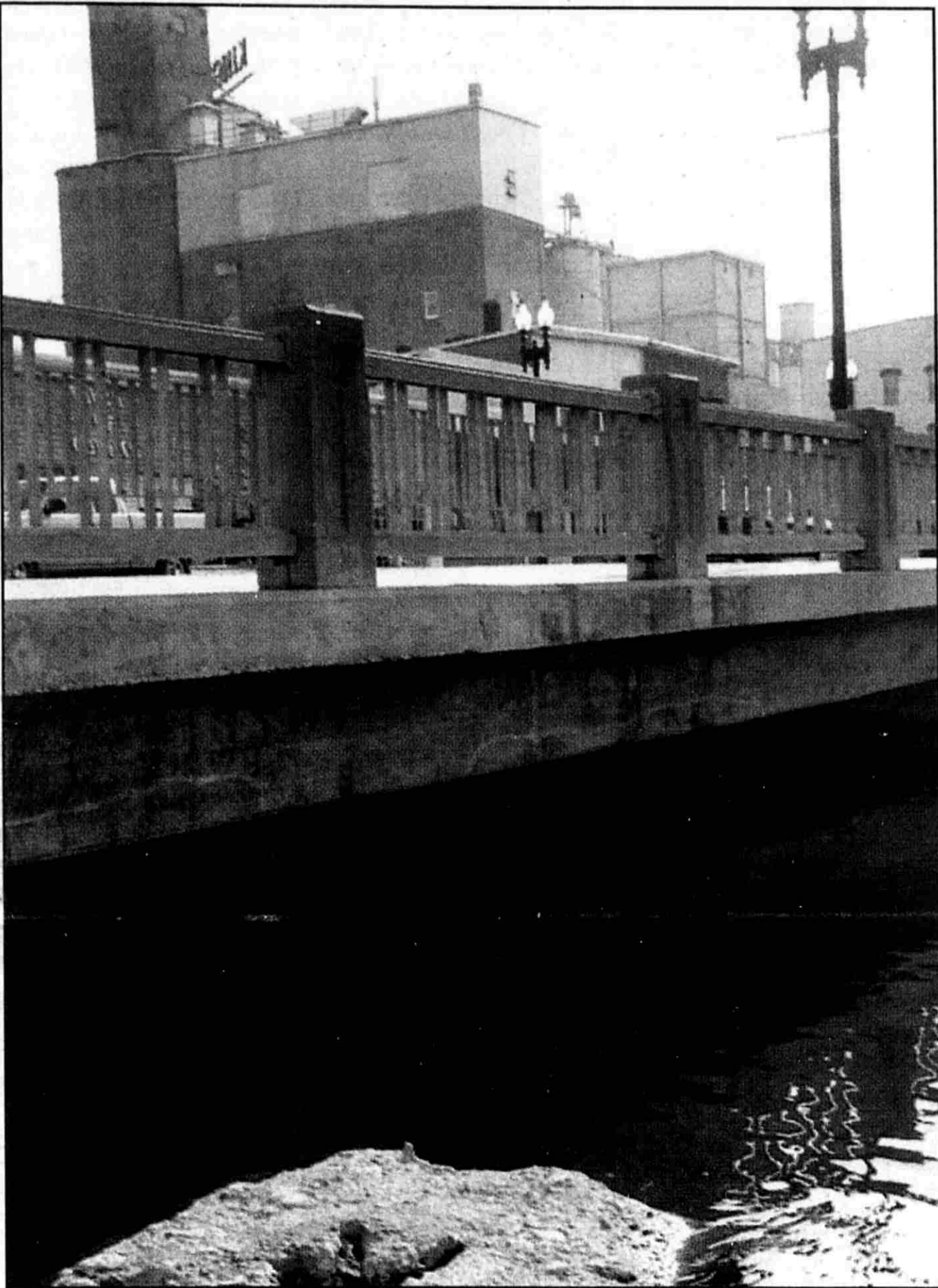
# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 34 Issue 21

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

## Main Street bridge scheduled for repairs in 2010



The superstructure of the Main Street bridge is scheduled for replacement in 2010.

A plaque at the west end of the bridge shows its age. It was built by W. Lamb Construction in 1942, a joint project of the State Highway Department and the federal government.

By Dan Schneider

The project is approximately four years away, but the rebuilding of the superstructure of Lowell's Main Street bridge is on the horizon.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has the project on its to-do list for 2010. So far, there are few certainties about how the project will be conducted. Even the 2010 start date is contingent on budgetary issues.

"The one thing we know is that the superstructure is going to have to be

replaced," said MDOT delivery engineer manager Tom Tellier, P.E., who oversees construction for the Grand Region.

He said the work should be completed in one construction season. A lot of planning will go into the project to minimize disruption.

"We want to maintain access and we want to maintain traffic," Tellier said.

MDOT will meet with the city early on for input. Tellier said the city will be involved in deciding issues such as whether to reroute

traffic and whether to expedite the project.

"Options are out there and we will not be making any decisions until we talk to the city," he said.

The Lowell Historic District Commission will also have early input on the aesthetic side of the project. Those meetings will likely begin in the fall or winter of 2007, Tellier said.

There are a lot of ins and outs involved.

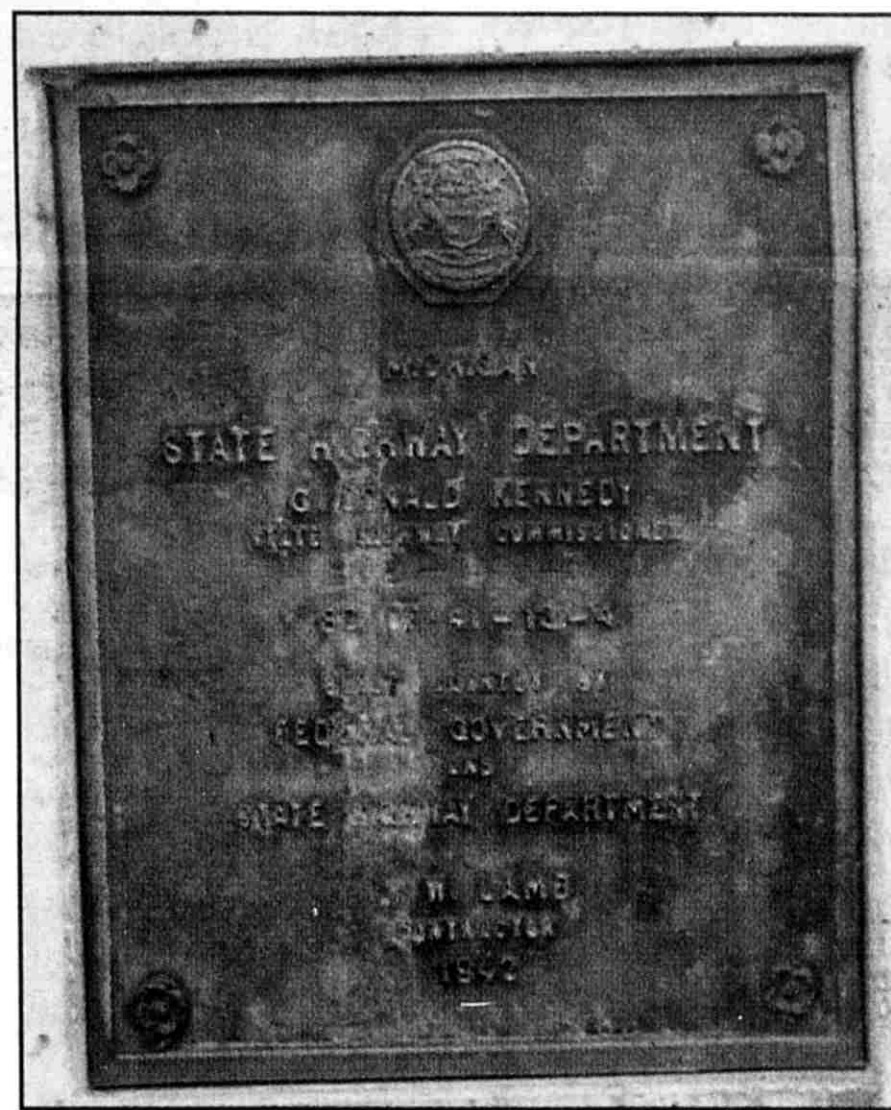
"This will be an interesting project because of the challenge of maintaining traffic and keeping the same grade," Tellier said.

The grade has to stay the same because of the presence of buildings along the bridge, which require the sidewalk to stay at the same level. Another issue is the dam under the bridge, which is operated by King Milling Company.

Based on MDOT's early observations, the condition of the bridge's substructure should help the project.

"The substructure still looks in pretty good condition," Tellier said.

That means the support columns and other infrastructure under the



Bridge reconstruction, Cont'd., pg. 4

## Lowell LIVE class creates high school version of itself

By Dan Schneider

This year's class of the Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence (LIVE) will be passing on what it has learned to other students.

Specifically, Lowell High School students will be taught volunteer and leadership skills in a new class which is to take place during the seminar period.

LIVE is a project of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lowell Chamber Foundation. For six years, LIVE has taught a different group of people from the community about leadership and volunteering. Each year, the LIVE class has undertaken a volunteer project to put those skills to

work. This year's class chose to put together a curriculum for a volunteering class at the high school.

The class is called LIVE FS, or Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence For Students. Open to students in grades 9-12, it will teach the importance of volunteerism, develop skills needed for effective volunteering, and acquaint students with organizations needing volunteers both locally and on a broader scale.

Carla Stone, Lowell Area Schools school to career director, suggested the idea to the LIVE class.

"I had a lot of students at the high school who were wanting to do a lot of volunteer work but who didn't know who to

contact," she said. "They didn't necessarily know where to go, what to do, so this is hopefully a way to build their skills so they can become reliable volunteers for organizations in the community to use."

Stone had also talked to several local organizations who were in need of volunteers, but had had a hard time finding dedicated, reliable high schoolers to volunteer.

"There are a lot of skills that you really need to have to be a good volunteer," she said.

LIVE member Virginia Jesberg saw the project as an opportunity "to be able to actually take our energy and what we felt was important about volunteering and

actually educating these students, bring that to them so they could also use that."

The course will be graded on a credit/no credit basis based on attendance, class participation and assignment completion. Assignments include gathering a database of volunteer organizations. As with the chamber's LIVE class, each LIVE FS class will complete a community project by the end of the school year, which is the major assignment for the class.

The LIVE class put together a curriculum binder for the class consisting of 11 chapters. This covers a wide variety of topics including volunteers' rights and responsibilities, dealing with

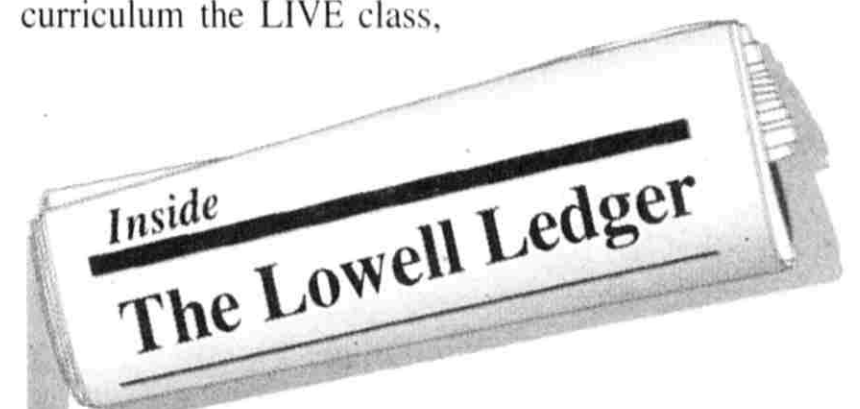
difficult people, fundraising, getting the most out of volunteering, and volunteer resources.

Stone said she was impressed with the curriculum the LIVE class,

which included no teachers, put together.

"The course that the LIVE group created talks

LIVE, Cont'd., pg. 4



Billboards Restricted ... Page 3

Fraud Suspect Arrested ... Page 4

First Spring Sports ... Page 13



# Obituaries

**DEPEW**  
Ruth "Genny" Depew, aged 78, of Newaygo, passed away as a result of injuries received in a house fire on Friday, March 31, 2006. After growing up in Alto, she attended Lowell High School and was active in 4-H with her Black Angus cattle. After attending Butterworth School of Radiology, she worked as an X-ray technician. Upon her retirement she moved to Newaygo. She is survived by her twin brother R. Gordon (Marilynne) Depew of Bradenton, FL; sister-in-law Mrs. Sharon Depew of Alto; nieces and nephews Lois Blocher, Kathy and John Plume, Elizabeth Gitchel, LaVern Christian and Shelley Blocher, Michael, Mark, Cherie, and Carol Depew, Jeff and Jen, Joe, and Rich Depew; many great-and great-nieces and nephews; special friends Jean Reynhout, Dot Merrill, Patti and Ron Harris. The service was held Tuesday at West Cannon Baptist Church, with Pastor Doug Crawford officiating. Interment in Findley Cemetery. Those desiring an expression of sympathy may consider the Diabetes Foundation.

**HERBLET**  
Mr. Glen D. Herblet, aged 89, of Lowell, went to spend eternity with his Lord on Sunday, April 2, 2006. Glen was raised on the family farm near Laingsburg, Mich., and grew up during the Depression. Glen started playing baseball as a young man and competed in the Tri-Town Conservation Club. Having good work ethics and teaching his family that nothing was free were many values that Glen passed on to his children. He is survived by his children Pennie (Dennis) Martin of Pensacola, FL, Mike (Sherrie) Herblet of Newaygo, Jim (Susan) Herblet of Canadian Lakes, Patrick (Patricia) Herblet of Lakeview, Kim Herblet of Stanwood; daughter-in-law Mrs. Janet Herblet of Ovid; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; special friend Melonie Powell of

Stanwood; and of course all his loving and caring girls at Cumberland Manor in Lowell. He was preceded in death by his wife Mrs. Theda Herblet on May 17, 2002; his sons Jerry and Thom, and a grandson Tommy. The service for Mr. Herblet will be Thursday at 1 p.m. at Hillcrest Memorial Park Chapel, 1106 S. Washington, Owosso, MI with his son-in-law Dr. Dennis Martin officiating. Interment in Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider Hospice of Holland Home, 2100 Raybrook SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Friends may meet with the Herblet family from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesday at the Pederson Funeral Home, 127 N. Monroe St., Rockford and from noon until the service on Thursday at Hillcrest Memorial Park Chapel.

**HUHN**  
Ethan James Huhn, age 2 months, went to be with Jesus March 26, 2006. Precious son of loving parents Anthony and Renee Huhn of Saranac. Ethan is also survived by his sister Ayanamae Nicole; grandparents Todd (Susan) Langdon, Christy Huhn and Terry Frederick, Loren (Tammy) Huhn; great-grandparents Lil Vronma, Heidi Kalbfleisch, Jack (Sharon) Haner, Ron (Robin) Huhn, Harriet (Duane) Durbin; many aunts, uncles and cousins. Funeral service was Saturday, April 1 at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Rev. George Fekete of St. Mary Catholic Church officiating. Interment St. Mary's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Ethan's family.

**JOURDAN**  
Eileen Fay Jourdan, aged 66, of Lowell, passed away April 2, 2006. She was preceded in death by her husband Clyde Jourdan and her son Rick Gould. She is survived by her children Stephen Gould, Victoria Vogt,

Angela Jourdan; mother-in-law Mary Jourdan-Gibbard; brother Wesley Gould; sisters Mary Wireman, Susie Wireman; 17 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. A funeral service will be held Thursday, April 6 at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Visitation will be 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Wednesday at the Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

**KESTNER**  
Winnifred Kestner, aged 90, of Belding, passed away Saturday, March 25, 2006 at Metron of Belding Nursing Home. Winnifred was born on July 3, 1915, the daughter of John and Jenny Moreland Jousma. Winnifred was married on January 16, 1930 in Alaska, Mich., to Owen Ellis. She and Owen owned a barber shop in Lowell. Owen preceded her on November 21, 1990. She later married Harold Kestner in Greenville on August 6, 1991. She attended the Community of Christ in Greenville. Winnifred is survived by her husband Harold and their children Joy and John Busch of Hastings, Marva and Al Andrews of Fremont, CA, Arthur and Maxine Kestner of Gowen, Polly Kestner of Silver Springs, FL; 15 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters Jack and Dorothy Jousma of FL, Ray and Darlene Jousma of Caledonia, Howard and Shirley Jousma of FL, Bill and Barb Jousma of Caledonia, Adrianna and Jim Crampton of FL; two brothers-in-law John Batdorff, Edward Lautenschlager; sister-in-law Elaine Jousma. Winnifred was preceded in death by her parents, brother Vern Jousma; sisters Sara Batdorff and Lorraine Lautenschlager. Celebration of Life services will be Thursday at the Community of Christ, Greenville with Elder Varian Bauman officiating.

**TUINSTRA**  
Ella E. Tuinstra, aged 100, of Lowell, passed away March 30, 2006. She was preceded in death by her husband Arend Tuinstra. She is survived by her daughter Agnes (Miller) Kent of Lowell; nieces and nephews Ferris (Lucy) Miller of Grand Rapids, Beuline (Betty) Hilaski of Grand Rapids, Elaine Duggan of Kingman, AZ, Ward (Joan) Miller of Roseville, CA, Dale Miller of Kingman, AZ; 21 great-nieces and nephews; six great-great-nieces and nephews; two great-great-nieces and nephews; Pete, Roxann, Kyle and Cody Selli for the loving and great care for our aunt Ella and to many friends who touched her life. Graveside services were Saturday at Oakwood Cemetery, Rev. Steve Shick, chaplain of Hospice officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of

Michigan 1260 Ekhart NE, Grand Rapids, 49503.

**MURPHY**  
Harold J. Murphy, aged 66, of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Kathryn; children Keith (Kim) Murphy, Karolyn (Don) Porter; brothers Robert (Jane) Murphy, Ronald (Della) Murphy, Bill (Pat) Murphy; sisters Betty Murphy, Marie (Calvin) Morrison, Dolores (Sid) Crumb, Patsy McLean; sisters-in-law Betsy Murphy, Mary Lynne (Bill) Quarandillo; brothers-in-law Charles (Mary) Cook, John (Linda) Cook, Don Cook; grandchildren Amanda Brown, Stephan, Tyler and Trenton Porter; many nieces and nephews. Harold was in the U.S. Air Force and served time in VietNam. He worked 35 years at Rapistan. A funeral service was Saturday at the Ada Congregational Church, Pastor Tracey Taylor-Kunst officiating. Interment Bailey Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan, 1260 Ekhart NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

**WINGEIER**  
Kenneth Jack Wingeier, June 26, 1924 - March 29, 2006, son of John Emil and Rose Kropf Wingeier, passed away at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Ken graduated from Lowell High School and was a member of the band, football, basketball and track teams. Ken enlisted in the Army Air Corps during World War II, serving nearly three years from February 1943 until December 1945. He returned to the Lowell area to marry his high school sweetheart Nellie Grace Pullen in January 1946. He completed his bachelor's degree in forestry on the GI Bill, while working at Oldsmobile. He worked there for 32 years, becoming a tool and die maker in the jet plant, while raising a family with Nell. Ken was a founding member and among the first deacons to serve in the South Lansing Church of Christ. He was an athlete and sportsman playing for the Oldsmobile Rockets as well as bowling, playing golf, hunting and fishing. Ken was active as a Little League baseball coach and Boy Scout leader. Ken married Clara Callier in 1971. His blended family includes six sons and three daughters. Ken was preceded on his journey by his first wife Nellie Pullen Wingeier and daughter Amy Callier. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Clara Callier Wingeier; children Mike, Gary Scott and Marie Wingeier and Libby, Jake, Jr., Greg and Joe Callier; seven grandchildren Kirsten, Denton and Andrew Wingeier, Ayana Gruber, Dr. Aaron Johnson, Jacob Collier III and Justin Farmer as well as many friends and relatives. For by Grace are Ye saved through faith ... It is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8 We shall see you in heaven, Dad. Funeral services were held Monday at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Chapel, Chaplain John Poston, officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery, Lowell.

## City will take its time with North Washington property decisions

Emma Palova  
Contributing Writer

The Lowell City Council agreed, at its meeting on Monday, to take it slow with the North Washington Street property to be vacated by Lowell Light and Power (LL&P) in June.

The city annexed the 27-acre parcel of vacant land with the exception of two acres owned by Vergennes Township in the early 1990s. With LL&P soon vacating the land for a six-acre site at the former Newell Manufacturing Company, the council discussed potential uses for the land. Besides the storage yard, a rental house and old warehouse sit on the grounds, and a Boy Scout cabin.

City manager David Pasquale said the city now has less and less use for the land. "We can keep it the way it is or there is an opportunity for housing or selling it," he said.

The council discussed ideas for usage of the land ranging from returning it to its natural state to seeking proposals for a mystery project like the city of Grand

Rapids. Council member James Pfaller said the city should consider annexing the section in Vergennes Township surrounded by the city property.

"I would take a similar approach with mystery development like the city of Grand Rapids and seek proposals," Pfaller said. "It's an asset, we don't need to hang onto it."

Council member James Hodges said the Boy Scout area should be left as it is as an asset to the community.

"We should move slowly and preserve the

Boy Scout area," Hodges said. "The land should be replicated and put back into its natural state."

Mayor pro tem Alan Mathews suggested neighbors could be involved in purchasing part of the land. "I don't want to box us in," he said. "It's a beautiful piece of land. I can see nice houses put up."

Some of the buildings from the parcel could be moved to the cemetery to be used for office space and storage. Director of Public Works Daniel DesJarden said he will check into the

feasibility of moving the buildings.

Resident Peggy Covert said the Boy Scouts may be looking into Eagle projects to add more to the scout building. Covert urged the council to take it slow with the property and to do research about available open space grants.

"Don't rush into it," she said. "It is a resource. You could open it up to the community for hikes."

The city council will tour the site during the second week of May prior to making any decisions.

## Lowell Charter Township votes to restrict billboards

By Dan Schneider

Lowell Charter Township approved a new ordinance regulating billboards along the stretch of Interstate 96 that runs through the township.

The ordinance allows billboards, but only on industrial property. It also restricts billboards to within 200 feet of the freeway right of way.

There are currently about 4,000 feet of highway frontage.

The ordinance was approved by a narrow 4-3 margin after two motions to table the issue failed. At its Feb. 27 meeting, the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission had voted 5-0 to recommend adoption of the billboard ordinance to the township board.

The properties combine for

several billboards in the township, advertising everything from hotels to law schools. Under the ordinance approved at a March 6 special township meeting, any further billboards will have to be built on two properties zoned light industrial located on Alden Nash and Timpson avenues. The properties combine for

### LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 06-181,222-DE

Estate of  
GERTRUDE ELIZABETH  
THOMAS,  
deceased

Date of birth  
11/04/1917

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

The decedent,  
GERTRUDE ELIZABETH  
THOMAS, who lived  
at 2000 32nd St. SE,  
Kentwood, Michigan,  
died 02/04/2006.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Norman Martin, named personal representative, or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa St. NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 and the named/ proposed personal

representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

429 Turner NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
616-456-5048  
Norman Martin  
March 30, 2006 1530 Pinnacle East SW  
Wyoming, MI 49099  
616-534-5546  
Craig A. Bruggink P.L.C.  
P29358 616-534-5546

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## CITY OF LOWELL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY  
TEST OF THE OPTICAL SCAN  
TABULATING EQUIPMENT  
FOR THE MAY 2, 2006  
LOWELL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the public accuracy test of the Optical Scan Tabulating Equipment for the May 2, 2006 Lowell Area School District Election will be conducted Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Look Memorial Fire Station, Community Room, 315 South Hudson Street, Lowell, Michigan.



Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk  
(616) 897-8457

## The Lowell Ledger

(USPS 453-830)

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TAMMY JANOWIAK.....CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING  
JAY VEZINO.....ADVERTISING SALES

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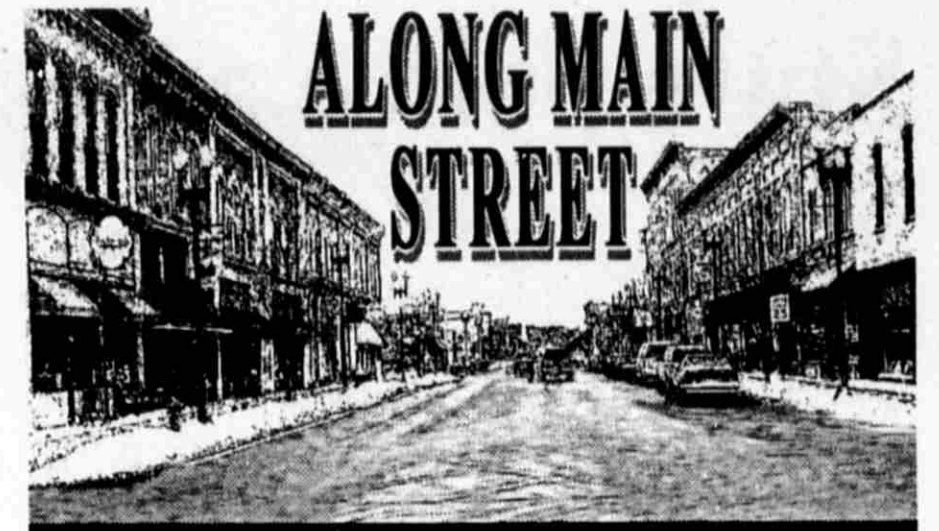
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On M-21, 5 Minutes East of Amway H.Q.  
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SHOWTIMES 4/3 - 4/6  
\$4.50 FOR ALL SHOWS BEFORE 1:00 PM  
**FREE**  
SPRING MATINEES  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10 & 11 AM  
ROBOTS (PG)  
CHOICE AGE: THE MELTDOWN (PG)  
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00  
LARRY THE CABLE GUY: HEALTH INSPECTOR (PG-13)  
1:30, 3:25, 5:20, 7:15, 9:15  
THE HILLS HAVE EYES (R)  
12:00, 9:55  
FOR VIOLETTA (R)  
2:10, 4:45, 7:20  
SHAGGY DOG (PG)  
12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:05, 9:10  
FAILURE TO LAUNCH (PG-13)  
12:50, 2:55, 5:05, 7:10, 9:20  
COUPON  
20oz DRINK  
FREE  
with \$5.00 purchase  
at participating locations. Exp. 4/30/06. See store for details.



New Year's  
Resolutions  
1. Shop  
2. Donate

goodwill stores

helping change lives one person at a time



### FOODMOBILE

The Foodmobile will be at Lowell Fairgrounds this Saturday, 10-11 a.m.

### ALTO FIREMEN'S PANCAKE SUPPER

All you can eat pancake supper at Alto Fire Station this Saturday from 5-8:30 p.m. Donations at the door.

### EASTER EGG HUNT

Lowell Moose Easter egg hunt will be this Saturday at Creekside Park. 1-3 yrs. 11 a.m.; 4-6 yrs. 11:45 a.m.; 7-9 yrs. 12:30 p.m. Refreshments, \$25 top prize each group, clown and Easter Bunny!

### FOOD DRIVE

Area churches will sponsor a "Better Together" food drive Saturday from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Drop-off site: Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. Please bring nonperishable foods to benefit FROM.

### LARA OPEN HOUSE

The Lowell Area Recreation Authority will have an open house at the Wittenbach/Wege Center the evening of April 20. Call Mari Stone at 897-5671 for more info.

### GARLIC MUSTARD MENACE

Volunteers are needed to clear the area of this invasive weed. If you would like to help, meet at the Boy Scout Cabin on Wednesday, April 19 at 6 p.m. and/or Saturday, April 29 at 1 p.m. Call Peggy at 897-7948 or Melanie at 897-2558 for more information.

### TOTS WIGGLES/GIGGLES NIGHT

Bright Beginnings Gym, 300 High St. on Thursday, April 20, 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$1 per child - ages birth to beginning school. Tumble track, refreshments, older siblings welcome. Call 987-2532 with questions.

### PASTEL WORKSHOP

Artist Irene Wordhouse will teach a pastel workshop April 21-22 at the Franciscan Life Process Center. Call 897-7842.

### COMMUNITY GARDEN EXCHANGE

Share plants that you have and take some others home. Saturday, April 22 from 9-11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Alto, 6015 Bancroft S.E. Door prizes, workshops, refreshments. Call 868-6403 with questions.

### MUSEUM WORKSHOP

Secrets, Secrets, Secrets: Plantation Life and the Underground Railroad workshop, ages 8-13, Saturday, April 22, 9-2 p.m. at Wittenbach/ Wege Center, 11715 Vergennes. Cost: \$15; registration is required. Call 897-7688, Lowell Area Historical Museum.

### TOTS ANNUAL SALE

Almost new sale at Bright Beginnings Gym, 300 High St., 9-noon on Saturday, April 29. Set-up at 7:45 a.m. Cost: \$1. Call 987-2532 to reserve space. Shop, sell, trade.

### SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

Lowell Area Arts Council summer camp scholarship applications for middle/high school students attending a music, art or drama camp available at 149 S. Hudson, or www.lowellartscouncil.org. Deadline April 30.

### WATERCOLOR EXHIBIT

Gerard Anthony Wood has an exhibit of watercolor paintings at Huntington National Bank, 414 E. Main St., now through May 1. Call LAAC at 897-8545 for more information.

### SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Branch Adventures, a new Christian camp, has a variety of camps for students, families. Call 642-2315 or www.branchadventures.org for early registration deadline May 1.

Mari C. Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk



# State police arrest Lowell man suspected of fraud

By Dan Schneider

Police have arrested the man accused of defrauding as much as \$10,000 from the Lowell community with a false cancer claim.

Michigan State Police arrested Stan Lenneman late last Thursday afternoon at a residence outside of Saranac. They turned him over to the Lowell Police Department. He was held briefly at Kent

County Jail before posting a \$10,000 bond.

Police began an investigation into Lenneman in early February. A letter questioning his continued good health after stating he had cancer was circulated to local news media and forwarded to the Lowell Police Department. A warrant for Lenneman's arrest was issued March 23.

He is charged with false pretenses \$1,000 or more, but less than \$20,000. If convicted of the felony charge, Lenneman would face a maximum penalty of five years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine.

In 2005, Lenneman received money from cancer benefits held for him. Lowell Police detective Steve Bukala said victims

would be hard to trace in this instance, due to incomplete record-keeping and anonymous donations left in collection canisters throughout the community.

The arrest and pending trial will be hard on Lenneman's family.

"Time will tell," said Todd Lenneman, Stan Lenneman's brother. "If he's guilty, he needs to pay the

price. The key word is if."

Faced with questions of whether or not Lenneman has cancer, his family is caught between a rock and a hard place.

"To keep him out of jail, you want him to have it," Todd Lenneman said. "But you don't want him to have it because you want him to live."

He also said all the

unanswered questions are a hardship.

"It's bad for him, I think it's bad for everybody involved," Todd Lenneman said. "It's hard for the community, they have questions and they don't have answers."

"I think I'm sitting and waiting for answers just like everybody else."

# Bridge reconstruction, continued ... From Page 1

roadway will likely stay in place. That will lessen the impact of the project on downtown by making it more likely that at least

one traffic lane can remain open all the way through downtown.

Tellier said the plan so far is to maintain traffic

on Main Street during construction.

But even the best-case scenario will have a major impact on downtown.

"With the bridge project, it's going to be difficult," said Lowell chief of police James Valentine.

He said it will likely be better than the mid-'90s streetscape project that shut down Main Street for months. Still, Valentine said, "It will be an inconvenience and I'm sure a hardship on some of the businesses."

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker said the hardship will be felt most in the historic downtown business district.

"On the west end, I

don't think it will affect them as much as the downtown," Baker said.

The time to start preparing for the bridge project is now, she said, even though it is four years away.

"We already know that it's four years out," Baker said. "City government, the chamber, and businesses, too, they need to start planning."

"The key to that is going to be planning and public awareness, letting the people know the routes and letting them know that

the businesses are open for business."

She said it will also require careful planning to ensure the success of downtown events such as the Riverwalk Festival in July.

As for traffic flow through the town, Valentine does not believe the bridge work will result in serious backups. He said cars have been rerouted from Main Street onto Hudson Street, Riverside Drive and Division Street without causing traffic jams.

# LIVE project, continued ... From Page 1

about phone skills and stress management, even first aid," she said. "It talks about skills that will be helpful for those students not only as volunteers but when they go on in college and their careers as well."

LIVE class member Tina Cadwallader said the adult LIVE class gave them a strong foundation for putting together the high school course.

"The classes that we

were given were amazing, it applied to everything we needed to know to do this project," she said.

The individual talents of members of the LIVE class dovetailed well with what was needed to develop the high school class, according to Stone.

She said volunteer hours can be an important asset for students as they go on to college and further into careers.

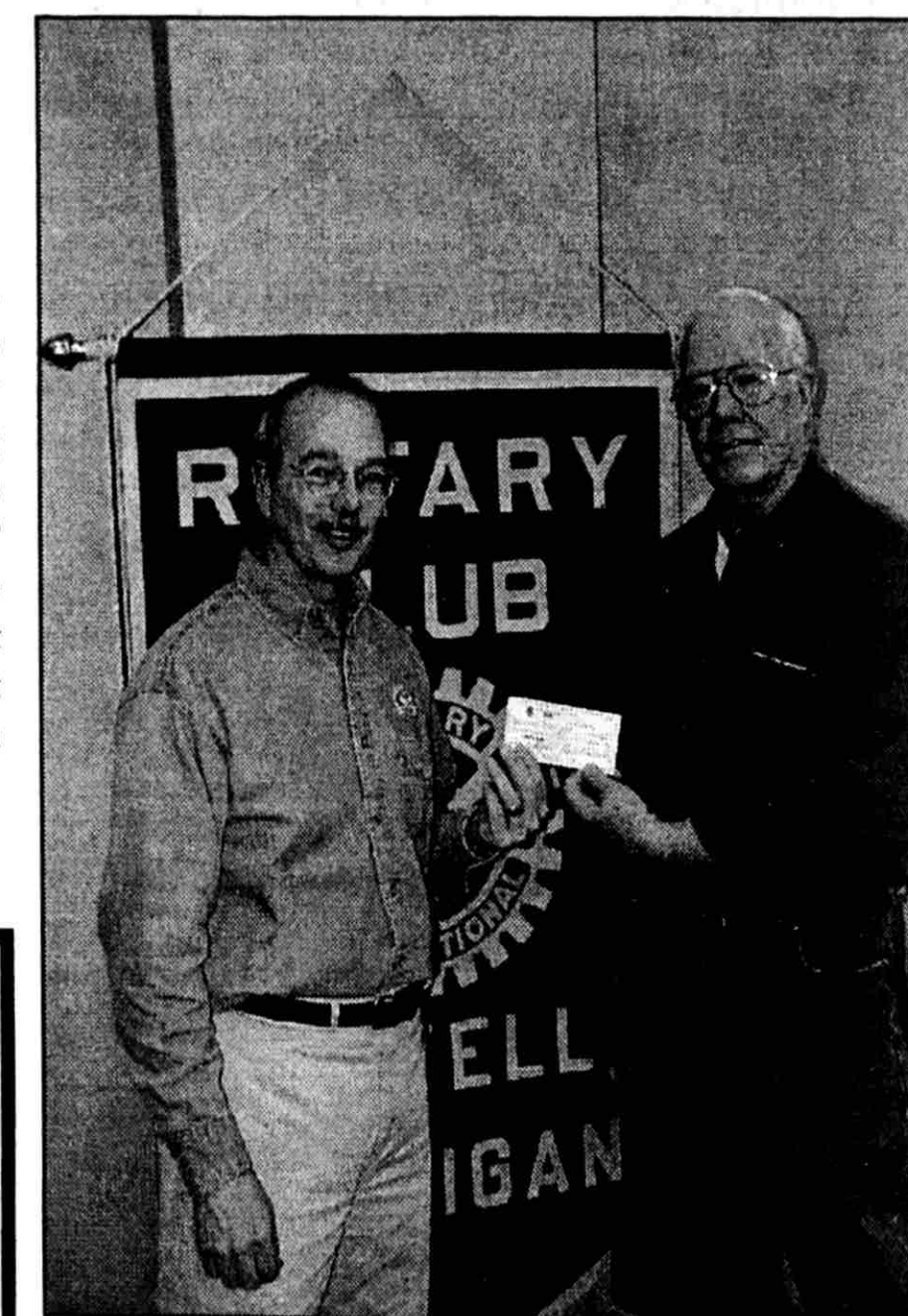
"There are a number of scholarships, locally and nationally, that are based on your volunteer work," Stone said.

The class will be offered starting in the fall semester.

In addition to creating the high school class, this year's LIVE group is doing a community service project at Creekside Park April 22. With help from members of the Lowell High School football team, they will clean up and make repairs to park equipment, including the annual sanding of Creekside Kingdom.

# Alto Lions donate to Rotary book project

Alto Lions Club treasurer Gilbert VanWeelden (right) hands a check to Lowell Rotary Club vice president, Jim White. The Alto Lions donated \$500 to the Rotary Club's literacy project, which is raising money to purchase books for Lowell Area Schools' libraries. The Lions Club's donation is eligible for part of a \$5,000 matching grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund.



# NOTICE Vergennes Township

A Public Hearing to solicit opinion will be held at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Vergennes Township Board on April 17, 2006, at 7:00 pm at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.



Josh Brewer, the owner of Arrowhead Golf Course, is requesting permission to sell liquor by the glass at the golf course, located north of Two Mile Rd. on the east side of Alden Nash NE, permanent parcel number 41-16-10-300-008. The business presently has a Tavern/SDM License allowing the sale of beer and wine.

For further information, please contact Mari Stone, Township Clerk, at the township offices, 897-5671, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Mari C. Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk



## Woods BUILDERS

 <p><b>814 GRINDLE</b> \$169,900 1,579 sq. ft.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 bed., split bath up</li> <li>• 1/2 bath on main floor</li> <li>• Daylight basement with finished 10.6x21 family room</li> <li>• Future bedroom &amp; full bath in basement</li> <li>• Wooded lot</li> </ul>	 <p><b>1350 McCabe</b> \$314,900 2,114 sq. ft.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of more expensive homes</li> <li>• 4 bed., 2 1/2 bath</li> <li>• 2.2 acres, beautiful view</li> <li>• Wood floors, gas fireplace</li> <li>• Master bath w/whirlpool</li> <li>• 3 stall garage</li> <li>• Close to Ada</li> <li>• Walkout basement</li> </ul>
--	--

**Both Lowell Schools**  
Call: Dave Woods 437-7091  
woodsbuildershomes.com

## BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Optech computer program testing for the May 2, 2006 school election is Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 10 a.m. at the township office, 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto, MI 49302.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk  
Bowne Township Clerk

# Viewpoint



It's 4:30 Tuesday morning and I have a small but perfect storm brewing here.

It's the first Cozy Corner deadline since the switch to daylight savings time. It feels like 3:30 a.m. to me. Sorry, but there just isn't much in the creative juices tank at this hour.

The N.C.A.A. men's basketball championship game was on last night. I stayed up way too late for a guy my age.

I have an early morning commitment, so I don't have much time to dally over this keyboard. It's a fun commitment, so I really don't want to dally over this keyboard.

On top of all that, I simply don't have anything in mind to take off on this week. I have a couple vague ideas, but given the above listed reasons, there is no way I can develop them into anything worthwhile. Yes, I know that shouldn't matter. We all know this column is never going to win an award anyway.

The final part of my perfect storm is that my stack of emergency material that has been e-mailed to me has dwindled down to a few paltry scraps. YIKES!!!

Since the piece of bailout material I've selected is short and not terribly relevant for this time of year, it's going to need a little introduction.

Terese and I were expecting visitors to arrive late yesterday afternoon. I showered and plunked down in front of the TV to wait for them. Lo and behold, the Detroit Tigers were playing their season opener at Kansas City. This had Oprah beat all to pieces!

On top of that, I tuned in just in time to see the Shelton kid hit his second homer and put the Tigers up 2 to 1. A rookie reliever was sitting down opposing batters and another Tiger added an insurance run with a homer in the eighth to make it 3 to 1. This was exciting!

Our visitors showed up and I didn't see how it ended, but from what I did see the question must be asked, "Is there hope for the Tigers this year?" Wow ... wouldn't that be something?

## To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to Jamie Phillips' letter from last week. I appreciate and understand Jamie's concern for animals, but unfortunately, she is very misinformed. I would like to give the facts point by point.

Jamie states that animals arrive at slaughter houses frozen or dead. This is untrue ... slaughter houses cannot and will not even take animals that cannot walk or appear ill.

She also states they "are forced into such poor living conditions that they cannot eat due to pain, or they are crippled by the time they are slaughtered ..." This also is not true. Farming under such conditions would not be profitable, and anyone farming under such conditions would be arrested for animal cruelty. Animals need to be healthy, well cared for, and fed balanced, nutritious and abundant diets to grow.

Jamie's reference to animals pumped full of human

So, there may be hope for the Tigers, but there is other news on the Detroit sports page. The Detroit Pistons are red hot and heading toward the playoffs as "The Team to Beat" in the NBA.

Also, the Detroit Redwings are heading into the playoffs as a team with one of the best records in the NHL. They should go deep into the playoffs, maybe even win the "Cup."

On the surface you'd have to believe it's a great time to be a sports fan in Detroit. But then you'd have to mention the Lions. And that, dear friends, brings us to this questionnaire from my emergency pile.

Here goes ...

Q. What do you call 47 millionaires sitting around a TV watching the Super Bowl?

A. The Detroit Lions.

Q. What do the Detroit Lions and Billy Graham have in common?

A. They both can make 70,000 people stand up and yell ... "Blank." For the easily offended out there, I'll leave what they yell to your imagination. It's the same word, or name, just used in a different context.

Q. How do you keep a Detroit Lions player out of your yard?

A. Put up goal posts.

Q. Where would you seek shelter in Detroit if a tornado warning were sounded?

A. Ford Field ... there is never a touchdown there.

Q. What do you call a Detroit Lions player with a Super Bowl ring?

A. A thief.

Q. Why doesn't Grand Rapids have a professional football team?

A. Because then Detroit would want one too.

Q. What's the difference between the Detroit Lions and a dollar bill?

A. You can still get four quarters out of a dollar bill.

Q. How many Detroit Lions does it take to win a Super Bowl?

A. Nobody knows ... and we may never find out.

Q. What do the Detroit Lions and opossums have in common?

A. Both play dead at home and get killed on the road.

That's it ... I told you it was paltry, kind of pitiful and irrelevant. If you think about it, how could anything written about the Lions be anything else? And, all those reasons make it a perfect little piece for this column!

Respectfully,  
Bruce P. Langlois, DVM

Dear Editor,

Yes, I do agree that animals raised in the U.S. and other parts of the world are treated very inhumanely, and the practices should be stopped. However, unless you organize a large rally or a petition to get our government to change the way they produce our food, you're not going to change anything. Our government and the USDA have certified all

Letters, cont'd., pg. 12

## Letters... We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger - welcomes all "Letters to the Editor" for publication on its "Viewpoint" page. Letters can be typed or written. However, we ask that they not exceed 250 words and not be strictly thank you letters. "Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, P.O. Box 1216, Lowell, MI 49331 or emailed to: [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com). Letters must be signed and please include a phone number. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy. The Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

## Ledger Entries

of 125, 100, 75, 50 & 25 Years Ago



By Priscilla Lussmyer

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL  
APRIL 6, 1881

"A lunch given by a New York lady to four of her friends cost \$110, or \$22 a plate."

Flood waters are receding fast. Both Grand River bridges will be repaired soon.

The monument of John P. Myers of Bowne Center is said to be the finest in the county outside of Grand Rapids. It was made in Lowell.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER  
APRIL 5, 1906

The spread to a nationwide coal miners' strike has at least one large company raising wages.

Schools are opening again after spring vacations.

The King Milling Co. bill for \$43.49 for sacks furnished during the flood (for sandbags) is paid by Council.

F.M. Godfrey has purchased a new driving horse.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER  
AND THE ALTO SOLO  
APRIL 2, 1931

The Kent County Health Department will make the rounds of schools in April to give the new diphtheria treatment, and smallpox vaccinations.

Kent County takes over all township road maintenance for the spring and takes steps to take over road construction too; townships tend to cut down all the roadside trees.

The Lowell Welfare Union needs more contributions to continue its welfare work during this Depression.

The Strand Theatre opens the spring season with Will Rogers' "A Connecticut Yankee."

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER  
APRIL 5, 1956

At least 26 cattle, two barns and a house trailer are demolished and several other buildings damaged by a tornado in the Alto-Bowne area.

City Council explores possibilities for bringing natural gas into town.

Justice of the Peace Howard Rittenger reports 19 traffic cases were heard in February for Lowell and Lowell Township.

Ramona, the ship that sailed Reeds Lake in Grand Rapids for many years, was not optioned to Lowell as had been suggested and is burned at the dock.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER  
APRIL 1, 1981

King Milling Company will be featured in a special on Channel 13 about the Nabisco cookie empire.

Lippert's Pharmacy celebrates the opening of its seventh store at White Cloud.

Editor Roger Brown writes that the Ledger has been sold to a Korean who will publish it in the Korean language: --- April Fool!

The Michigan Auto club urges police to increase driver awareness of the value of using safety belts.



# Reflections of faith

Rev. Randy Meyers  
Calvary Christian Reformed Church

As Jesus was accustomed to doing I thought I would tell a parable about mud pies.

"Two neighbor boys grew up across a fence. They played outside together every day, especially when it rained. They would jump in puddles in such a way as to get the other wetter than they got. They would catch worms swimming down the sidewalk. Inevitably they would make a stash of mud pies. Oblivious to how filthy they got in the process of "baking" they always had more fun throwing the fresh pies at the other.

The two friends went to the same school, they graduated together, and chose the same college. Even though they had

different majors and different roommates, they still did most things together. Their relationship was particularly tight because their mud pies became more sophisticated. One short sheeted the other's bed. The other replied by putting Jell-O in his friend's shower. They'd sling a pie and regroup later only to laugh about how they pulled off the prank or how they felt upon discovering the clever trick.

Several years passed after college and while they still kept in contact through the occasional email they settled in different parts of the country and took to settling down with their lives. Imagine how surprised they both were to find that 10 years later they both had applied for and been accepted in the same seminary. It seems that the seeds their 4th grade Sunday school teacher sowed sprouted at the same time.

Married now, still they picked up where they left off with the pies. One would turn in a poor research paper under the other's name. The other would reply with a well-timed cough during the punch line of his friend's sermon. "You got me that time," each would say to the other. After graduation they once again parted ways due to calls accepted in different parts of the country. This time they pledged not to get separated like what happened after high school.

They called, emailed, went to annual conferences together and their friendship continued strong as ever. They even became super creative with their sophisticated pies. The one on vacation arrived at the other's church unannounced. He secretly replaced the water with a glass of flat Sprite, waited in the parking lot, and snuck in the back of church to see his friend's expression. Though the preacher could not see him he knew as he took a drink that his friend was in the building. They celebrated in the line at the end of the aisle and went out for lunch.

Not to be outdone, the preacher sent his friend a particularly racy card he found with several scantily clad

women on the cover, a couple of empty beer bottle tops, cigarette butts, and a pair of lotto tickets for the \$235 million Mega-Millions Jackpot. Signed, "Thanks for last night. With love, your secretary. P.S. If you win, put it in the collection plate."

The friend immediately picked up the phone, called his buddy, and pretended to be a collections' agent on an outstanding church loan. They laughed and laughed, spent 45 minutes catching up, and washed the mud off their hands. That evening both sat stunned as they saw the evening news reveal that one of the pair of tickets was the sole winner of the lotto."

Why did the boys who became preachers love to throw mud pies at each other? What friendship do you have that resembles this relationship? Why do siblings or even spouses often relate in this manner? What truth does this story represent? What moral could be learned from these men? What other questions do you have? Email calvarycrc@juno.com.

## Easter services announced

Annual Easter Sunday activities and worship services will be held April 16 at the First United Methodist Church of Lowell, 621 E. Main.

The Sr. High Youth will have a sunrise service at 7 a.m. followed by a sunrise breakfast by the Jr. High Youth (free will offering). Worship services will be offered at 8:30 and 11 a.m. with Dr. Michael Conklin speaking on "Finding Our Voice" and Bill Zinke, director of music, providing special music. All are invited to attend the morning's activities. For more information call 897-5936.

### Easter Celebration

#### CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

formally invites you, your family & friends to learn about and celebrate Easter

##### PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 9

10:00 AM Worship Service  
"At the Sink and Stovetop with Jesus"

6:00 PM Worship Service  
Delightful Children's Pageant and Message

##### GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 14

7:00 PM Service  
"Meet Jesus at the Dining Room Table"

##### EGG HUNT SATURDAY, APRIL 15

10:00 AM  
Community event for children 3 to 10 years old  
"What Happened to Jesus?"

##### EASTER - APRIL 16

8:00 AM Early Worship Service  
10:00 AM Worship Service  
"At Home with God - A Place to Belong"

6:00 PM Worship Service  
Delightful Children's Pageant and Message



(Located across from Burger King on M-21)  
1125 West Main Street  
Phone & Fax: 616-897-7060  
E-mail: calvarycrc@juno.com



**Orville and Barbara Merklinger are celebrating 50 Years together!**

An Open House hosted by their children and grandchildren, will be held on **Saturday, April 22, 2006**  
3:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
at **LOWELL TOWNSHIP HALL**  
2910 Alden Nash SE • Lowell, MI 49331

Everyone is talking about the Ledger! Don't miss out on all the news! Get your subscription today! 897-9261  
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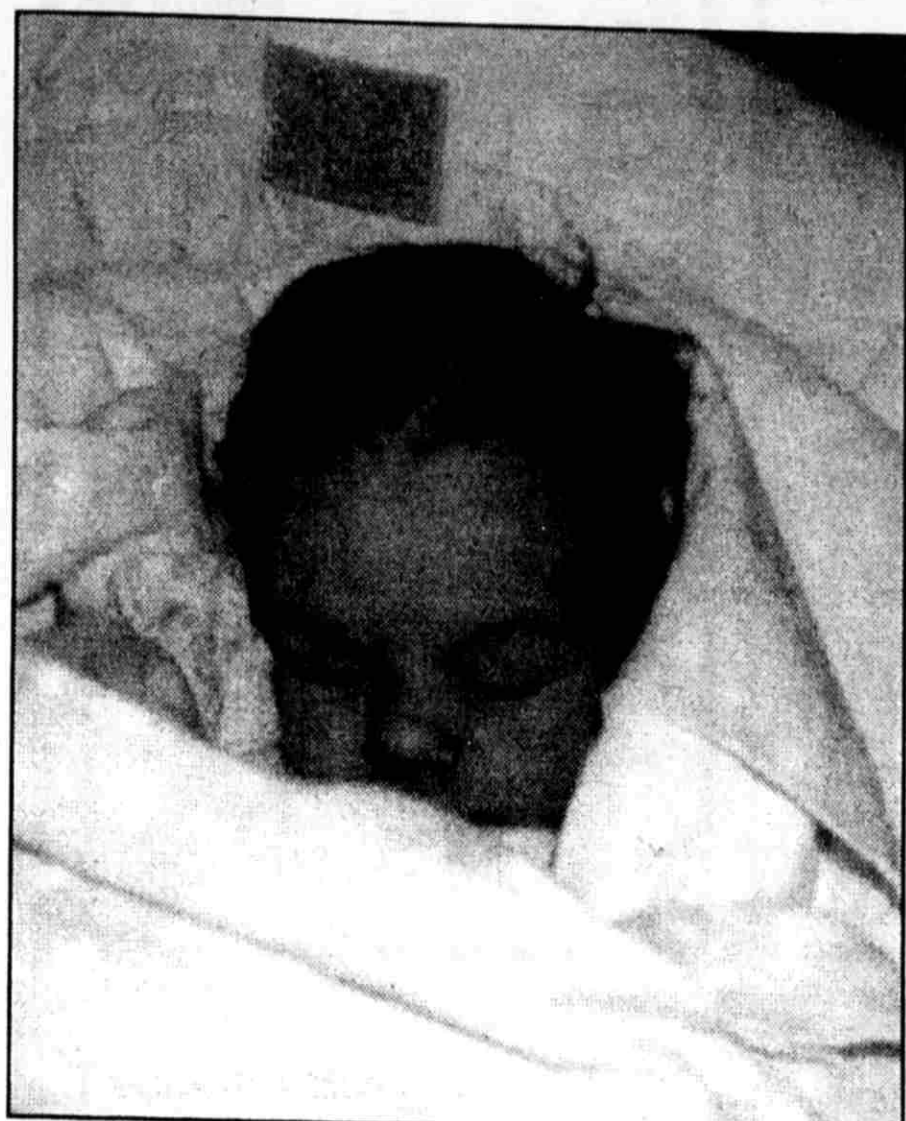
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## New Arrivals Carbines



Mara Elaine Grace Carbines

Dawn and Jeff Carbines are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Mara Elaine Grace. She was born March 20, 2006 at 10:46 p.m. at Spectrum Health. She weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. and measured 18 inches. Proud grandparents are David and Debbie Heckerson, Marcia Carbines, and Bill Carbines.

## In The Service

Navy Fireman Justin T. Krouse recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Krouse completed

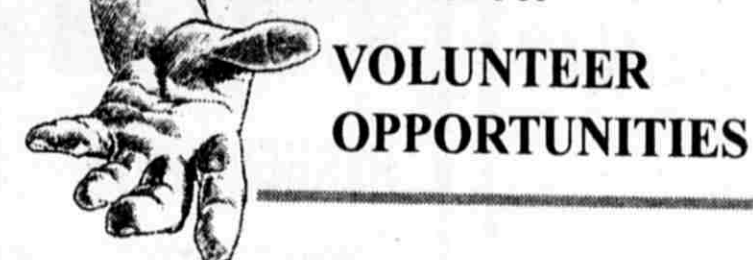
a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis

was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations." This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit

through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a sailor. Krouse, a 2005 graduate of Lowell High School, is the son of Rhonda and stepson of Michael T. Fisher of Lowell.

## Lend A Hand



**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION

Thirty volunteers are needed to install a new community early childhood playground on Saturday, April 22 behind the Lowell Area Schools Administration building, 300 High St. A site supervisor has been hired to assist in the installation. Food and drinks will be provided.

If you are interested in helping, call Kathy at 987-2532 or leave a message with your name and number.

### AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY NEEDS DRIVERS

Every day thousands of cancer patients need transportation to hospitals or doctors' offices for treatment.

You can help save a life by volunteering as a driver. To become a volunteer driver for the American Cancer Society you must own a safe and reliable vehicle, have a current valid driver's license, have proof of adequate automobile insurance, have a good driving record and attend Road to Recovery volunteer training.

Call 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org if you are interested in helping.

### STOP GARLIC MUSTARD

Help protect the environment and beautify the community of that invasive weed, garlic mustard. There will be a meeting at the Boy Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. on Wednesday, April 19 at 6 p.m. and/or Saturday, April 29 at 1 p.m. From there volunteers will go to various areas around town to clear out the menace. Call Peggy at 897-7948 or Melanie at 897-2558 for more information.

## College News

Cori Drenth, a junior at Alma College, received a Discovering Vocation Project Internship Grant for

a summer internship to do public policy research at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C.

The Discovering Vocation Project at Alma College has awarded 13 internships for 2006 with a stipend of \$3,250, representing an investment

of \$42,250 in the student recipients. In addition to working a minimum of 300 hours, the students spend time reflecting on the nature of service, the organization in which they are working, and their own vocational journey.

Drenth, a 2003 graduate of Lowell High School, is the daughter of Thomas and Carol Drenth.

Kai L. Lum, of Lowell, recently received a 4-year bachelor of business administration (BBA) and a 2-year associate of arts (AA) degree from Northwood University in Midland.

He is the son of Kim Lum of Lowell and Wing Lum of Lansing.

## Happy Birthday

### APRIL 6

Carol Hovinga, Brad Yonker, Fran Clouser, Connie Vaughn, Pearl Peckham, Malley Cahoon, Cheryl Foster.

### APRIL 8

Jay Vezino, Sandy Converse.

### APRIL 9

J.R. Guastavino.

### APRIL 7

Corey Vollink, Rick Sauber, Lindsey Thaler, Kenneth Dalga, John Henderson, Mary Kimble, Brad Schoen.

### APRIL 10

Julie Webb, Nicholas Comdure, Chelsea Comdure, Betsey Walker, Sarah Rusch-Hildenbrand, Tristan Lane

Ellsworth-Bristol, Barbara Bechtel.

### APRIL 11

Toni Blough, Delores Gabrion, Adaline Thaler, Al Roe, Harry Carigon, David Johnson.

### APRIL 12

Sarah DeShane-Dalga, Jesse Lewis-Anes.

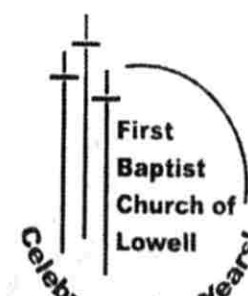
He is Risen... Just as He Said... Come, Celebrate With Us!

Easter Sunday, April 16

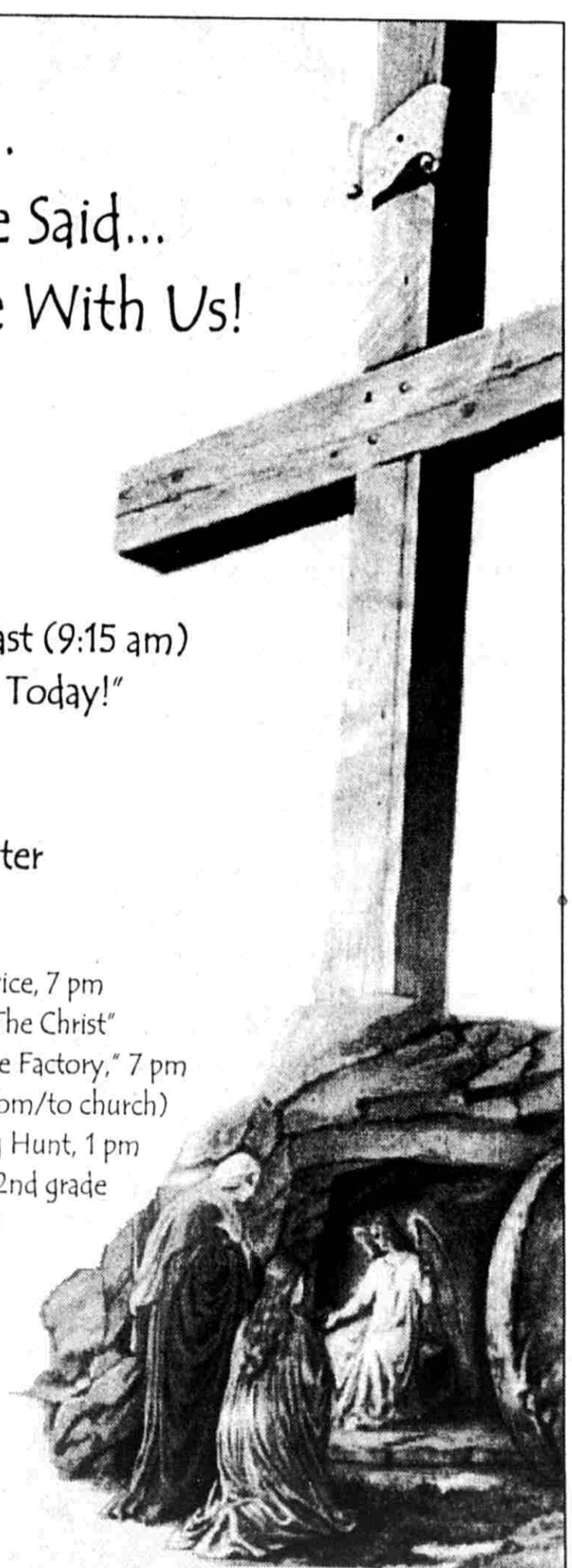
Join us Easter morning for complimentary breakfast (9:15 am) and "Christ The Lord Lives Today!" music/drama (10:30 am)

We invite you to these Easter Weekend activities as well:

- Friday, 4/14: Good Friday service, 7 pm
- Friday, 4/14: "The Passion of The Christ" teen event at "the Factory," 7 pm (ride provided from/to church)
- Saturday, 4/15: Resurrection Egg Hunt, 1 pm children age 3 - 2nd grade (& their parents)



2275 W Main St., Lowell, MI (616) 897-7168 • www.fbclowell.org



# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p><b>ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS</b> If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p><b>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.  <b>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS</b> <b>OPEN DOORS</b> Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p><b>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL</b> 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.  Nursery &amp; Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p><b>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p><b>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH</b> SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>
<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936  Worship Services.....8:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Kids Club Wednesdays After school to.....5:30 p.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery &amp; child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p><b>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH</b> Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</b> 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor Jonathan &amp; Stacy Holmes, Youth Pastors <b>SUNDAYS:</b> Worship: 10:00 a.m. - LIFE Home Groups &amp; "XL" Youth Sunday evenings <b>WEDNESDAYS:</b> Family Night (For All Ages): 7 p.m. "XL" Youth: 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.smary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT, 5 PM; SUN, 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM &amp; 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer &amp; adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL BRENDA BEYER, 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906  Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Dr. Roger LaVarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Nursery-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise &amp; Worship</p>
<p><b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell &amp; Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Study...9 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremmer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims &amp; Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. &amp; 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB, C. Wed. 6:15 &amp; 8:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p><b>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurian Meredith 9:45 A.M. ....Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M. ....Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery &amp; Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	<p><b>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M.</p>	<p><b>PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER</b> Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>

**Spring Has Sprung! Sale**  
Friday, April 7 thru Saturday, April 15

**Wine Six-Pack Sale**  
Build-Your-Own - Save 15%  
"Pauly's Picks" Six-Pack Sale  
April Themes  
Do-It-Yourself Wine Tasting Kit  
"Radical Reds!"

**Spring Feature:**  
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Beer Special:  
Sierra Nevada, 12 packs - \$11.99  
Wine Special:  
Maddalena Muscat Canelli  
reg. \$13.99 - SALE - \$8.99

Sign up for:  
Pauly's Wine Tasting, April 26th  
Pauly's Beer Tasting, May 10th

11250 E. FULTON  
LOWELL, MI 49331  
(616) 897-BOOZ (2669)





### Sharing The Vision

With Nancy Hopkins  
Board of Education President

Much time, effort and money is spent in public education on improvement. In Lowell Area Schools the improvement process is continual, not something addressed once or occasionally and then forgotten. But, along with improvement also comes the opportunity to celebrate. Celebration infuses new energy and motivation. Here are just a few reasons to celebrate Lowell Area Schools and our community.

After a careful and thorough search that included valuable input from community leaders, parents, residents and district staff, the Board has selected a new superintendent. Greg Pratt's contract was approved by the Board of Education on March 21 and he is beginning his transition to Lowell. Greg has been in touch with interim superintendent Pat Murphy to ensure a smooth changeover and he is starting to meet with district administrators. Greg and I also have been in communication through email and phone conversations. You may have seen Greg at Expo on

Saturday, March 25. He and his wife Liz are looking for a home in the Lowell community. We will be seeing more of Greg in the district as the school year draws to a close.

We have said good-bye to Mark Kasper, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. Mark facilitated much improvement in our district's curriculum program. Although Mark has moved on to another district, these improvements are cause for celebrating, as is the knowledge that our staff is even more prepared to continue the teaching and learning process that ensures increased student achievement.

Standard & Poor's has issued its school district-level analytical reports for the state. These reports are designed to provide administrators and school board members with information we can use to improve student achievement, taking into consideration each district's unique demographic challenges. Lowell Area Schools has again performed very well. If you are interested in viewing our report, please visit [www.schoolmatters.com](http://www.schoolmatters.com). We should celebrate these results together.

MEAP results give us another reason to celebrate. The current MEAP data includes grades 3 through 8 results in the areas of Reading, Writing, ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies. Out of 27 total areas, our district outperformed the state averages in all 27 areas and outperformed the Kent Intermediate School District averages in all but one area. In reviewing these results remember that five percentage points

is considered significant and the district outperformed the state and ISD averages by five or more points in 21 areas and 10+ points in eight areas. (Points equal the percentage of students who were considered proficient on that area of the MEAP.) Lowell individual building scores showed 11 areas at 95%+ proficiency and three areas received 100% of students passing a portion of the MEAP.)

While our focus is always on continued improvement, let's not forget to energize and motivate ourselves by celebrating our successes. Celebration and improvement really do go hand in hand, and in Lowell we have the reasons and results to prove it.

Comments may be made to the Board of Education at [boardofed@lowellschools.com](http://boardofed@lowellschools.com).



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## Ideas abound for use of North Washington property

By Dan Schneider

A meeting was held last Wednesday night at the Lowell Area Arts Council to discuss options for the use of city property at the end of North Washington Street. Lowell Light and Power is moving its equipment to part of the former Newell Manufacturing building on Amity Street.

There were eight residents, most of whom lived in the North Washington area, and two city council members Jeanne Shores and Jim Hodges, in attendance. Residents expressed concern that the city may sell the land for development. Shores and Hodges stressed that the use of the land is far from being determined. Members of the city council were scheduled to discuss the land Monday, and it is not yet certain when

Lowell Light and Power will vacate the premises.

"I can't see a big development going in there because typically Lowell has liked trees," Shores said.

She didn't rule out the possibility of some houses being built on the approximately 20 acres, however.

"It's a nice place to live," she told the people in attendance. "I mean, you all live there."

Resident Peggy Covert, who organized the meeting, suggested the possibility of involving land conservancies or other private foundations.

"We might be able to find ways to get the city the financing they need while still preserving the greenspace," Covert said.

A park was the most commonly agreed upon use for the land among the

residents present at the meeting.

"This corner of the city, the oldest corner of the city, doesn't have a park of its own," resident Gary Dietzel said.

The land already gets a lot of use by outdoor enthusiasts. Hiking trails wind around through the hills. Some of them are fairly precarious, however, particularly on the bluffs overlooking the river.

Hodges said, "I don't think we have the money or the resources at this time" to extensively develop a park.

Parker Liu, a member of Lowell Boy Scout Troop 102, which meets in a cabin on the property, suggested building a campground, adding picnic tables and standardizing the trail system. Much of the work could be done by scouts for

their Eagle Scout projects, he said. Other scout troops from Greenville, Saranac and Belding sometimes use

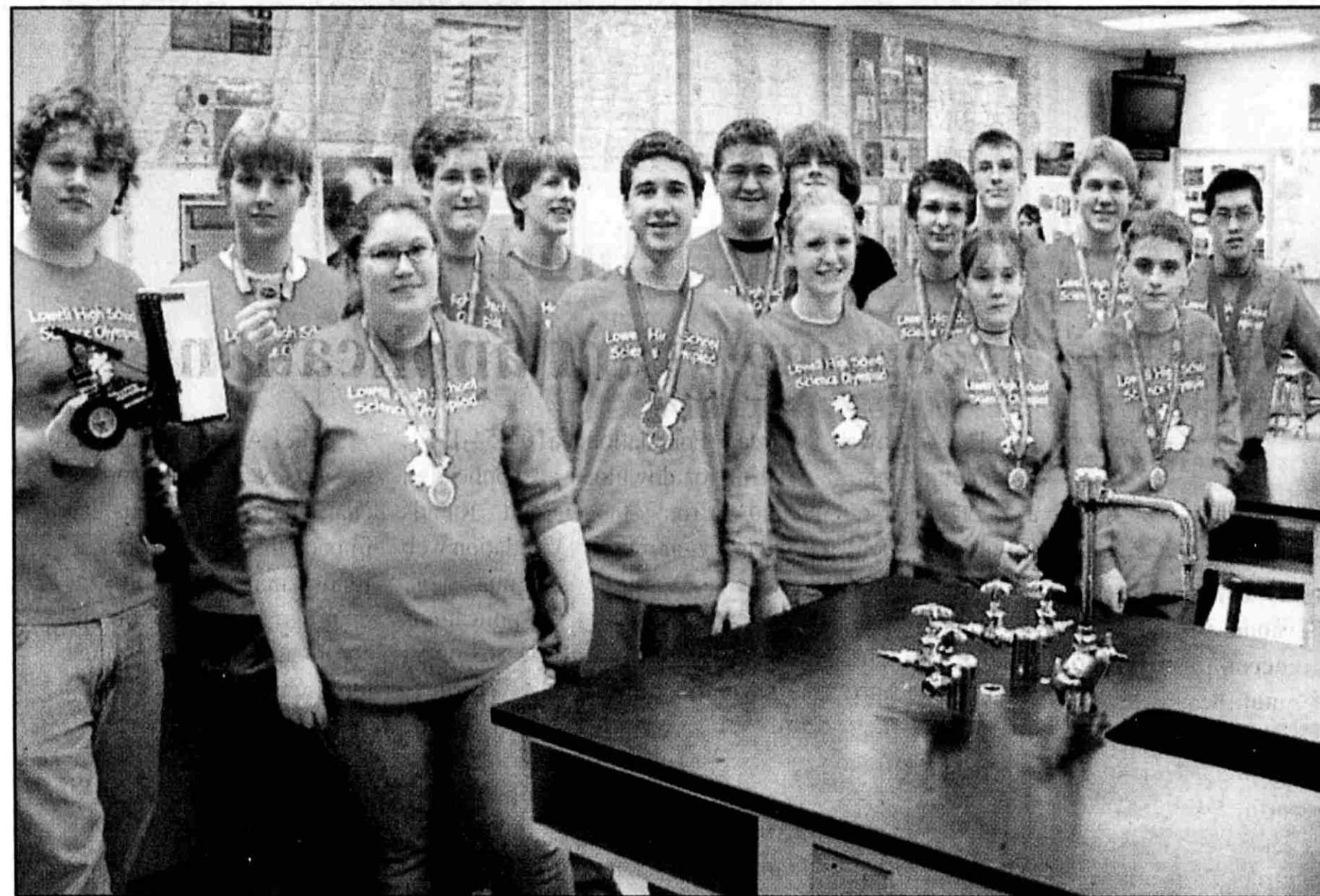


There are a number of scenic views on city-owned property at the north end of Washington Street. Nearby residents hope to preserve the natural character of the area.

the scout cabin, Liu added. Covert said she hopes to recruit volunteers to do some research on the history

of the property. Stories have long circulated about Indian burial mounds being present there, for instance.

## LHS scientists compete in Olympiad



Lowell's Science Olympiad team competed Saturday, March 25 on the campus of Grand Valley State University in Allendale. The Red Arrows finished 12th out of 30 teams and medaled in two events. They took first place in a Physics event and also medaled in the Fermi Questions event. Members of the LHS team, pictured left to right, are Brandon Herrig, Ben Den Houter, Samantha Collins, Culver Redd, Ben Zoodsma, Nick Freeburg, A.J. Freeburg, Laura Blanton, Mike VanderHart, Kelsey Stickney, Lori Smith, Flynn Hoag, Christopher Bilski, Cody Krueger and Adam Ingraham. The team uniform consisted of red T-shirts that said, "Why did the chicken cross the road? Because chickens at rest tend to stay at rest and chickens in motion tend to cross roads" with a picture of a running chicken on the back.

## New art at Huntington



"Tropicana," by Gerard Wood is among several works by the artist that are currently on display at Huntington Galleria at 414 East Main.

## Collectors' shop opens new storefront on Main Street

By Dan Schneider

Collector's Korner is a new business on Main Street in Lowell.

According to owner Rodger Ackerson, however, he has had an establishment here for seven years. What's new is the location. Ackerson's business was previously located in the Flat River Antique Mall. When that closed at the end of February, he moved next door to 218 West Main, which was formerly the Black and White Store.

He has been there since March and sees the new location as a good move.

"It's immensely better," Ackerson said. "I've got the two best display windows in town."

In those windows are

an assortment of stamps and coins. Collector's Korner deals in coins, stamps, pocket watches, estate jewelry.

"If you've got a piece of 14-karat gold jewelry that's broken that you don't wear anymore, bring it in, we buy that stuff," Ackerson said.

He specializes in hard-to-find items and also offers appraisals and watch repair.

Ackerson has wanted to be in business for himself for a long time.

"I've had a desire to have my own business since I was 14 but I never had the capital," he said.

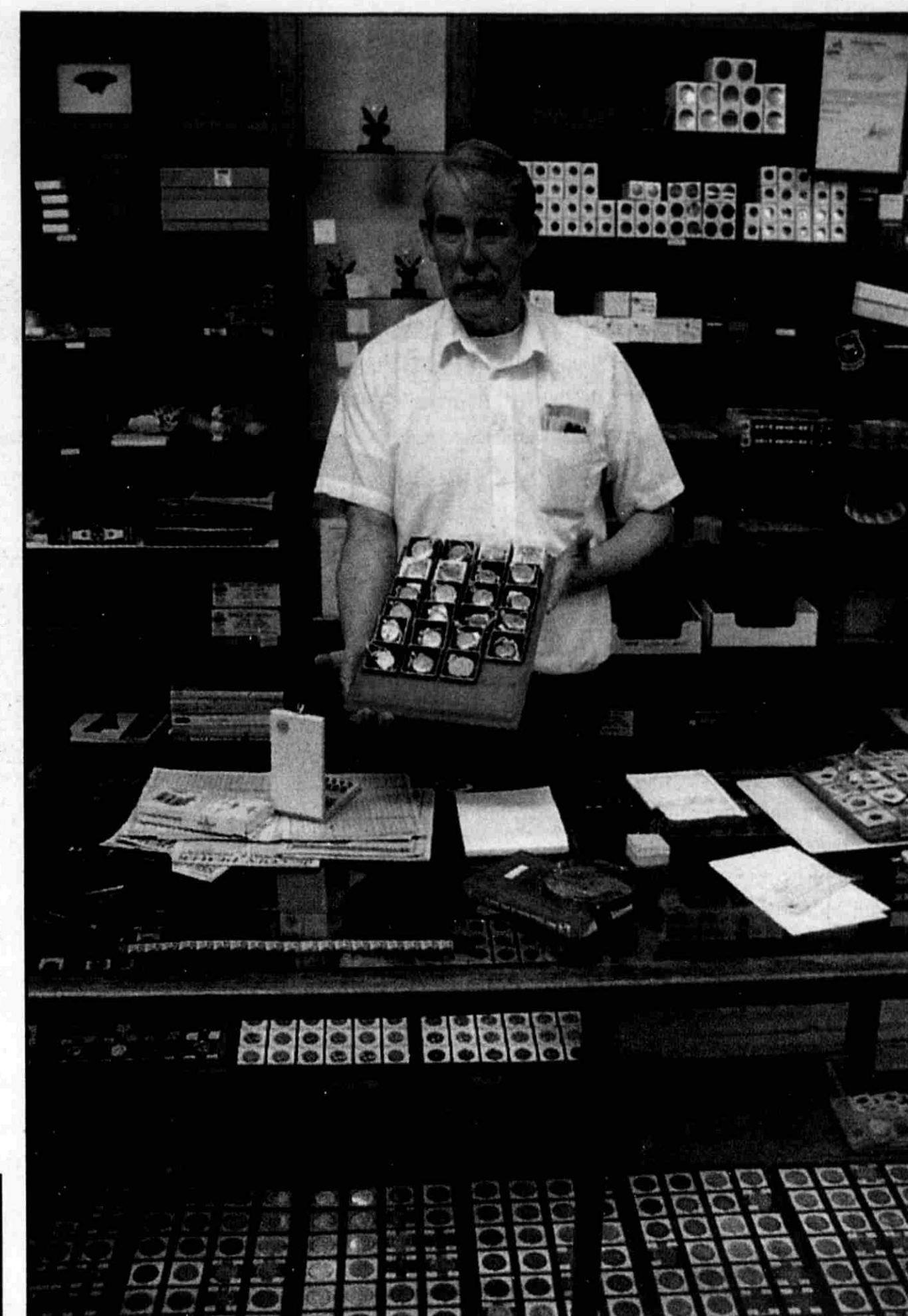
He saved up money while working 36 years for the U.S. Postal Service.

When he retired, he chose the Flat River Antique Mall as his place to set up shop.

The space at 218 W. Main is well suited for a store dealing in antiques. It has a tin ceiling and dark wood shelves that were built when it was Hill's Shoe Store. Ackerson enjoys having his own space.

"I can sit down with people, I can play a game of cribbage, I can play a game of Sorry," Ackerson said. "That's the way I want people to feel when they walk in the door. If they want to play a game of cribbage, sit down and play a game of cribbage. If you want to shoot the breeze, I have chairs available for that, too."

Rodger Ackerson behind the counter of his business, Collector's Korner, which is new to Main Street.



## Cherry Creek reads a lot



Students from Cherry Creek Elementary who won class essay contests during "March is Reading Month" were recognized last Wednesday afternoon as part of an assembly to conclude the month of reading. Cherry Creek students accomplished their goal of accumulating 2,500 accelerated reading points during the month, which won them the right to watch principal Maureen Dorough and reading teacher Jackie Krygier compete against each other in a tricycle race. Dorough and Krygier were dressed as the Cat in the Hat and a resident of Whoville, respectively, in honor of Doctor Seuss, whose birthday is in March. March is Reading Month at Cherry Creek had an Olympic theme, with students earning gold medals for reading books in multiple genres.

## Community fund accepting grant applications

The Lowell Area Community Fund (LACF), a fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, is accepting grant proposals for its next grant round. All proposals must be submitted no later than April 21, 2006, in order to be considered.

Interested organizations may contact Kate Luckert, program director, at the Grand Rapids Community

Foundation at 616-454-1751, or download an application from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation web site at [www.grfoundation.org/lowell](http://www.grfoundation.org/lowell). Applications are also available at Lowell Township Hall, Vergennes Township Hall, City Offices of Lowell, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the Englehardt Library or any Lowell area school.

The LACF awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit, charitable organizations that impact the Lowell area. It funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation, represent an original start-up effort, are capital in nature, serve a broad segment of

Community fund, cont'd., pg. 15

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# City, Vergennes Township agree to mediation on Cook property

By Emma Palova  
Contributing Writer

A committee consisting of city and Vergennes Township representatives will mediate the annexation of 177 acres of Cook property from Vergennes Township into the city.

The \$2,600 cost of the mediation will be covered by a grant from the Lowell Area Community Foundation, and split between the city and Vergennes Township. Council members Jeanne Shores and James Pfaller will represent the city

of Lowell on the committee. "I've been to the boundary meetings," said Shores. "I would like to continue. The discussion is between the city and Vergennes."

The city council felt it would not be appropriate for Lowell Township to have representation on the committee. They could, however, serve as observers if required by mediator Joe Vander Meulen, executive director of the Land Information Access Association.

"They haven't participated so far," said Pfaller. "It would be inappropriate. The purpose of this is for the mediator to look at the Cook property. It doesn't involve Lowell Township." According to city manager David Pasquale, utilizing the Land Information Access Association to work out differences between the city and Vergennes Township could lead to more cooperative approaches in land use planning.

## Letters, continued ... From Page 5

the production practices of how our food is produced, and there is not much we can do about it.

However, I suggest you check into organic food if you want to do something about this problem, and if you want to improve the quality of what you eat. It sounds like you are especially concerned about the way animals are raised and treated until they are slaughtered.

On Oct. 21, 2002 the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) implemented regulations governing the labeling of foods produced that are organic. These regulations say that food products that contain 95-100 percent certified organic ingredients may use the USDA organic seal. These regulations reflect the National Organic Standards Board recommendations regarding which substances used in production and processing are allowed or prohibited. The regulations also strictly prohibit: the use of irradiation, sewage sludge, genetically modified organisms

(GMO's) in food, as well as antibiotic and synthetic hormone use in organic meat and poultry. They also only allow for 100 percent organic feed to be fed to livestock. Visit [www.ota.com/organic/us\\_standards.html](http://www.ota.com/organic/us_standards.html) and [www.ota.com/organic/faq.html](http://www.ota.com/organic/faq.html).

The National Organic Standards require preventative health care practices such as adequate feed, nutritional supplements, sanitary housing, and freedom of movement; access to the outdoors and calls for conditions that accommodate the natural behavior of the animal; appropriate clean and dry bedding. They prohibit withholding of medical treatment in cases of animal illness. Many organic livestock farmers even go above and beyond these standards by treating their animals humanely, pasturing them, letting them get exercise and sunshine, etc., because they care about their animals, their products, and the consumers.

These standards will be enforced because the USDA

strictly enforces them. Farmers have to be certified and inspected at least once a year by an independent, third-party certifier.

I encourage you to look into organic food. My family and I buy our organic/natural meat from Otto's Turkey and Chicken Farm's in Middleville, (269) 795-3738. If you want to start buying other kinds of organic food, it is available at some area Meijer, D & W, Costco, Sam's Club, and Harvest Health Food Stores.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Schreuer

Dear Editor,  
I wanted to express my sincere appreciation to the production staff, pit band and cast of the spring musical "Beauty and the Beast." I had the privilege of watching the musical in its first weekend of programs. The casting was great, the blocking (where and when everything happens) and choreography were outstanding. I was very much amazed at the quality of acting and voice work done by the student cast. The LPAC student crew did a wonderful job with the many and major set changes, some in full view of the audience. The night I was there the audio was incredible.

I have been involved with "Little Mary Sunshine," "The Pajama Game," "Once Upon a Mattress," "Peter Pan," "Wizard of Oz" and "Cinderella." It has been my privilege to watch "Footloose" along with the latest production, "Beauty and the Beast" that continues a great tradition at Lowell High School of "only the best."

Again, congratulations to all who had a helping hand with a great show.

Richard Graham

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOWNE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 11.01, 11.04, 11.05, 11.06, 12.01, 12.02, 12.04, AND 12.06 TO ADD CERTAIN USES AS SPECIAL LAND USES IN THE C-1 COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AND TO REVISE THE USES ALLOWED BY RIGHT AND THE SPECIAL LAND USES IN THE C-2 COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Public notice is hereby given that the Bowne Township Planning Commission will hold a hearing on Thursday, April 13, 2006, at 7:30 p.m., in the historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, Alto, Michigan, to hear public comments regarding a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment:

- Amends Section 11.01 (Description and Purpose) to revise the purpose of the C-1 Commercial District to allow for flexibility in allowing non-traditional activities as special land uses.
- Amends Section 11.04 (Special Land Uses) to add minor vehicle repair (within existing buildings), upholstery and furniture repair businesses, contractor's storage and maintenance facilities, and other similar uses not otherwise specifically provided for, as special land uses in the C-1 Commercial District.
- Amends Section 11.05 (Height, Area, and Dimension Regulations) to provide that where the front setback has been established or where the average setback of existing buildings on either side of a parcel or lot has been established at a distance greater than zero, the Planning Commission may approve a front setback greater than zero, in the C-1 Commercial District.
- Amends Section 11.06 (General Requirements) to provide that a site plan shall be submitted and reviewed for uses in the C-1 Commercial District in accordance with Article 18 of the Zoning Ordinance.
- Amends Section 12.01 (Description and Purpose) to revise the purpose of the C-2 General Commercial District to provide that this District will typically be established on major arterial roads and may be subject to access management standards.
- Amends Section 12.02 (Uses Allowed By Right) to allow "vehicle and boat sales and rentals" and "banks, credit unions, and similar financial institutions, including drive-in facilities" as uses permitted by right in the C-2 General Commercial District, to exclude "drive-in restaurants" from the C-2 General Commercial District, and to eliminate automobile, motorcycle, and boat servicing from the C-2 General Commercial District.
- Amends Section 12.04 (Special Land Uses) to allow "vehicle repair" in place of "automobile repair" as a special land use in the C-2 General Commercial District.
- Amends Section 12.06 (General Requirements) to provide that a site plan shall be submitted and reviewed for uses in the C-2 General Commercial District in accordance with Article 18 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Interested parties may be heard at the public hearing. Written comments will be received until the close of the public hearing. The proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance may be examined at the Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash, Alto, Michigan, on Wednesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and on Fridays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

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# Lowell comeback falls short in first lacrosse match

By Dan Schneider

Lowell's varsity lacrosse team opened its season last Tuesday when the Red Arrows hosted Portage Central.

The Arrows struggled early on, as Portage Central scored four goals within one 3-minute stretch in the first quarter, taking a 5-0 lead.

"That just kind of crushed us," Lowell coach Eric Bredin said. "We let down for three minutes and they took a five-goal lead, and that's tough to overcome."

Trailing 8-3 early in the second half, Lowell scored a goal and started a comeback. The Arrows exchanged goals with the Mustangs, but Lowell controlled the game after that. The Arrows closed the gap to 9-7 halfway through the fourth quarter,

but could not get all the way out of the hole.

"I was real proud the team came back and showed character coming back in the second half after being down by five," Bredin said. "Tuesday, Portage Central was just the better team and unfortunately we don't get to play them again."

Last year, Lowell split a pair of regular season games with Portage Central and lost to the Mustangs in the tournament.

Ben Nugent had a hat trick (three goals) for the Arrows. Brett Ostrander, Will Moore (assist by Austin Blough), Greg Huyser and Adam Bowers accounted for the rest of Lowell's scoring.

The fact that only one of those goals was assisted was a sign that Lowell wasn't yet firing on all cylinders.

"I think a lot of it is first-game jitters," Bredin said. "When you're out there the level's a little higher than it is in practice."

"I've been real impressed with how we practiced the last couple of weeks."

In its second year as a full varsity sport, Lowell lacrosse is starting to develop some senior leadership and some playing experience on the roster.

"We have some depth and we have three first-year players that are coming along really well," Bredin said.

There is a huge junior varsity team again this year. They will play some games together and six or eight games split into Red and White teams, Bredin said.

"It might hurt the



Lowell's Ben Nugent, left, chases down the ball during last Tuesday's match against Portage Central.

record," he said. "But as far as building the program and getting the guys some playing experience, we had to do it."

Lowell's next game will be April 11 when the Arrows

will be playing games at Red Arrow Stadium. To cap the day, Grand Valley State University's team will take on Northern Michigan University at Lowell.

host Zealand East. They travel to Holland Christian April 13. Big plans are scheduled for April 15 when all the Lowell lacrosse teams, from middle school to varsity,

will be playing games at Red Arrow Stadium. To cap the day, Grand Valley State University's team will take on Northern Michigan University at Lowell.

## Lowell girls soccer season off to up and down start

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell girls varsity soccer team has had mixed results so far this season.

After a 5-1 win in the season opener at Caledonia last Monday, Lowell lost 10-0 to Unity Christian last Wednesday in a game that

ended by mercy rule with 15 minutes remaining.

Chelsea Harrison and Rebecca Underwood scored two goals each in last Monday's win over the Fighting Scots. Freshman Logan DeClerq scored the Red Arrows' other goal in that

game. That win was a strong effort to start the season.

"Monday, we pressured the ball, we challenged at every position, we were actually involved in the game," said Lowell coach Paul Legge.

It was a different story

on Wednesday at Red Arrow Stadium. "We didn't even play remotely close to the level we played on Monday," Legge said.

The best thing to come out of that game may have been the learning experience for Lowell. "It's a reality check to some of the kids that they are going to have to start working," Legge said.

Lowell teams, he said, have struggled in the past with getting discouraged against tough teams, and that was the case Wednesday.

"Honestly, we had

given up when they scored a minute and a half into the game," Legge said. "Not to take anything away from Unity, they're an outstanding team, but I think they're somebody we could keep up with."

With the quality of players on this year's team, Legge expects the Arrows to learn that lesson and play tough against tough teams in the future.

"We have a pretty good team this year. I would say comparable to last year," Legge said.

The team has a big core

of experience this year, with eight returning starters; 11 players on the roster have two years or more of varsity experience. Underwood, Nicole Shepard, Erin Beddows and Chelsea Smit are four-year varsity starters.

"We've got a ton of experience coming back this year," Legge said. "It's just a matter of getting comfortable and putting things together. We're struggling to find the right mix and when we do, I think we'll be a dangerous team."

Lowell's next game is April 12 at Rockford.



Lowell's Brittany Lyman (#20) gets into position to contest for the ball in last Wednesday's game against Unity Christian.

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Lowell Varsity vs. Dewitt

College Halftime  
5th/6th Grade vs. Forest Hills Northern/Eastern

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## Author to speak in Lowell

The author of a nonfiction World War II survival story will speak next Tuesday in Lowell. Doug Stanton wrote *Harm's Way: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors*. His book tells the story of more than 300 men who survived for five days after their ship was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. It is about their courage in surviving and their character in not becoming embittered when it was found out the Navy withheld intelligence that could have kept them out of danger. Stanton's book started with an item in a local newspaper and a trip to Indianapolis in 1999. He was so inspired by talking to these men that what started as a 5,000-word article turned into a 350-page book. Stanton will speak in the council chambers at Lowell City Hall Tuesday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. The visit is a Kent District Library presentation sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For more information on Stanton's book, visit [www.ussindianapolisinarmway.com](http://www.ussindianapolisinarmway.com).

## City approves rate hike for water, sewer

Emma Palova  
Contributing Writer

The Lowell City Council approved an increase in sewer and water rates at the council meeting on Monday based on a rate

study performed by Tetra Tech. The rates effective April 15 will increase from \$51.65 to \$60.19 for both sewer and water. According to city manager David Pasquale, the city has been increasing the rates gradually based on a five-year projection of costs and rates. The last increase was in 2005.

*"Well, when it comes down to me against a situation, I don't like the situation to win."*

-MacGyver



## Political unity among the Iraqis is essential

With Senator Carl Levin

On the third anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, I traveled to Iraq and Afghanistan to assess the situation on the ground in those countries. It was my sixth trip to the region since the Iraq war began.

As always, the most inspiring part of the trip was meeting with our troops - including many from Michigan - who are serving so bravely. Our delegation conveyed to the men and women of our armed forces the extraordinary support for them in the Congress and throughout our nation, regardless of our debates and differences over Iraq policy. I came away deeply impressed by their professionalism, dedication, and high morale. They are truly America's finest.

The situation in Afghanistan is hopeful. President Karzai has led his nation with a firm and steady hand. He has successfully, albeit gradually, neutralized the warlords and demobilized and disarmed their forces. The Taliban have indeed regrouped to some extent and, together with a much weakened al Qaeda, are capable of causing casualties

among the Afghan Army and Coalition and NATO forces. But they are not a threat to the Afghan nation.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Army is growing stronger; the training of the Afghan police is improving; a large number of provincial reconstruction teams are helping with local governance; and NATO is assuming more of the burden of providing security throughout the country. Serious work does remain, including the need to deal with poppy cultivation and the drug traffickers. But overall the situation in Afghanistan provides grounds for optimism.

Sadly, the same cannot be said of Iraq. General Casey, the Commander of U.S. and Coalition forces in Iraq, said to us during our visit, there is no military solution to the violence in Iraq without a political solution among the Iraqis themselves.

On that front, the news is deeply troubling. The security situation in Iraq is dismal and threatens to grow worse, particularly in the cities. Since the recent attack on the Golden Mosque in Samarra, there has been a huge increase in violence among the main ethnic groups. The increase is so significant that our senior military and civilian leaders in Iraq say sectarian violence has replaced insurgent attacks as the number one security problem.

Iraq's political leaders have not made the compromises necessary to unify the country. More than three months after the relatively peaceful December election, the Iraqis have yet to form a new government or amend their constitution to make it a unifying document. Tragically, the Iraqi leaders are fiddling while Baghdad burns. Without a unity government and an inclusive constitution, the insurgency won't be defeated and Iraq will continue to drift toward all-out civil war.

We cannot let that drift continue. Regardless of one's view on whether to invade Iraq, we need to succeed now that we are there, because the outcome will have a major effect on the region and on our own security. To succeed, we must achieve, at a minimum, a stable Iraq with a government of national unity supported by a reliable national army and

police that are not weakened by splits along ethnic lines.

To maximize the chances of success, we need to maximize pressure, using a combination of carrots and sticks, on the leaders of Iraq to end their political deadlock. The carrot is the provision of economic development funds, particularly from neighboring wealthy countries, on the condition that a national unity government is created and produces a coherent economic plan.

The biggest stick is clearly telling the Iraqis that our continued military presence in Iraq is dependent upon their promptly putting together a government of national unity. President Bush needs to forcefully transmit a message to the Iraqis in plain and simple language: Your survival as a nation depends on your working things out together. Your survival as a nation is in the hands of your political leaders, not our military.

Sadly, the rhetoric of the President and his Administration has worked against the pressure that needs to be applied against the Iraqi leaders. The President recently asked the American people for our patience. Instead, he should be telling the Iraqi leaders bluntly that the American people are understandably impatient with their dithering.

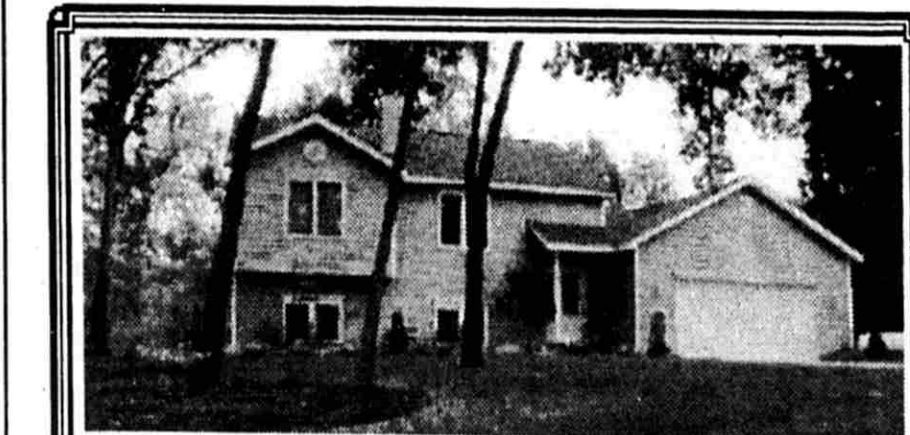
It is essential that the Iraqi leaders understand that our continued presence is not unconditional. If the Iraqi leaders squander the chance to bring political unity to Iraq we cannot and will not protect them from themselves. The insurgents and outside terrorists can't be defeated and civil war won't be averted if Iraqi leaders can't reach an accord amongst themselves. The United States needs to make it clear to the Iraqis that a prompt political settlement is not only essential to them, it is a condition of our continued presence.

## Kalamazoo? movie begins run in Lowell

The comedy "Kalamazoo?", produced by Kalamazoo natives Joanna Clare Scott and Dana E. Kowalski, will premiere in Kalamazoo on April 6 and is set to open in several theaters including the Ada-Lowell 5 on April 7.

The film tells the story of three women who return for their 10-year high school reunion and are reminded that a time capsule made by their graduating class - containing predictions for everyone's future - is due to be opened at the impending event. Horrified by the thought of their unfulfilled goals being revealed, they embark on a comedic quest to ensure the time capsule does not reach the reunion.

"Kalamazoo?" has an exclusive theatrical run with Grand Rapids-based Goodrich Quality Theaters, Inc. The film's limited release begins in Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Holland, Grand Haven, Lowell and Three Rivers.



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## Lowell breeders among Angus Association winners



These young people won premier breeder awards at the 2006 Michigan Angus Association annual banquet and awards program held March 12 in Mason. Seated, from left, are Rachael Vaassen, Ann Arbor, first; Wren Schroeder, Deckerville, second; Danielle Foster, Niles, third; Patricia Vaassen, Ann Arbor, fourth; and Julie Thelen, fifth. Standing, winning honorable mention, are Dee Anne Merriman, Lowell; Renee Thelen, Saline; and Kendra Merriman, Lowell. Dee Anne and Kendra Merriman also received honorable mention in the premier exhibitor awards from the association.

## Math-A-Thon 100-plus club



Each of these students from Murray Lake Elementary raised over \$100 for the St. Jude's Math-A-Thon. As a school, Murray Lake raised more than \$3,700. Pictured, back row, left to right, are: Keaten Pomper, Paige Fosburg, Emily Cornell and Anthony Alderink; front row are: Jessica Sheveland, Thomas Hubert, Elizabeth Dickson and Maria DeCator.

## NOTICE Vergennes Township

A Public Hearing will be held regarding a request for a Special Exception Use Permit at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Vergennes Township Board on April 17, 2006, at 7:00 pm at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

Hidden Acres Development Co, Inc has requested an application review for a special exception use permit to construct a development entrance sign larger and higher than the zoning ordinance allows (section 201.403 (D) (1) (c)). The new sign would be located in the boulevard entrance area of the Alden Nash West home development project. The property is located on Alden Nash between Foreman and Vergennes in section 33.

Copies of the application are available for public inspection at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, 616-897-5671, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Public comment will be taken at the meeting, or if received by the Clerk in writing or by e-mail at [clerk@vergennewtp.org](mailto:clerk@vergennewtp.org) by 7:00 pm April 17, 2006.

Mari C. Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk

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## Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold  
Edward Jones  
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### RETIRING SOON? TIME TO REVIEW YOUR FINANCIAL STRATEGIES

The necessity of taking a "big picture" approach to your financial situation was recently discussed in this column. By looking at your needs at different stages of your life, you can develop a strategy containing elements that work together to help you achieve your goals. Last week, we discussed the importance of building financial assets and protecting your resources. Now, let's consider two issues that will be important to you during your retirement years: Creating an income stream and transferring your wealth.

Creating a Retirement Income Stream  
During your retirement years, you will need a significant percentage of your pre-retirement earnings to live on, but the actual amount will depend on your lifestyle. An investment professional can help you determine the annual income level that you will need.

Once you know how much income you'll require, you'll

need to look at all available sources: your savings and investments, your retirement plans (401(k), IRA) and your Social Security. In determining how much to take from each source, and when, you'll have to consider some different factors. For example, it might be wise to delay making withdrawals from your tax-advantaged retirement accounts for as long as possible, so that these funds can continue to grow tax-deferred. However, you must start taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your traditional IRA and 401(k) when you turn 70-1/2. (Roth IRAs don't require you to begin taking RMDs at 70-1/2, or at any age.) You can withdraw more than the RMD, but not less.

As for Social Security, you can start receiving monthly checks at age 62, but your payments will be larger if you wait until your full retirement age, which can be between 65 to 67. For every year past your normal retirement age that you delay collecting benefits, you'll get "bonus" payments, but once you reach 70, you'll have earned the largest monthly payment you're going to get.

Transferring Your Wealth  
To complete your financial picture, you need to have your plans in place to transfer your wealth in a way that provides maximum benefits to your family and to any charitable organizations you wish to support.

To achieve these wealth-transfer goals, you will probably need to work with a team of experts, including your investment professional, your tax advisor and an attorney specializing in estate planning. You will need to

create the appropriate legal documents, which may include the following:

- Will - If you don't have a will, your heirs may face costly delays before receiving any assets. Furthermore, your wishes may never be fully honored, because state law dictates how your assets will be divided.
- Living Trust - A living trust can give you more precise control over how - and when - you want your assets distributed.
- Charitable Remainder Trust - By establishing a charitable remainder trust, you can support a charitable group and receive financial and tax benefits.

Financial Focus, cont'd., pg. 17

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## Community fund, continued ... From Page 11

the community, yield The LACF was Foundation in 1996 with a substantial community established as a donor-benefit, and strengthen advised fund at the Grand agency performance. Rapids Community Englehardt.



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# COMING EVENTS

## APRIL

**THURS., APRIL 6:** Vergennes Co-op Club at Schneider Manor activity room, 1 p.m. Show & Tell craft program by Jean Caldwell. Bring your crafts to show. Hostesses are Norma Noall and Donna Ford.

**FRI., APRIL 7:** Organ Concert at 6 p.m. Lowell Senior Neighbors.

**SAT., APRIL 8:** Foodmobile at Lowell Fairgrounds. Free food, 10-11 a.m. Bring own box or bag.

**SAT., APRIL 8:** Alto Firemen's Pancake Supper at Alto Fire Station. Donations at the door. 5-8:30 p.m.

**SAT., APRIL 8:** Lowell Moose Easter Egg Hunt, at Creekside park. 1-3 yrs. 11 a.m.; 4-6 yrs. 11:45 a.m.; 7-9 yrs. 12:30 p.m.

### MONDAYS

Lowell High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes & Friends, 7-8:30 p.m. at Gallagher's. Call 676-1355.

Women's over 30 drop-in basketball, 7-9:30 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary. Call Dave (YMCA) 897-8445. Fee \$3.

Boy Scout Troop 102, 11 & up or completing 5th grade, meets 7-8:30 p.m. at Scout Cabin, end of N. Washington St. Call Tim Vanderwulp at 897-4302 for more info.

**1ST MON.:** Regular communication of the Belding-Ionia-Lowell Masonic Lodge #355 at 7:30 p.m. in lodge room, 211 E. Main, Belding. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. All Masons may attend.

**1ST MON.:** V.F.W. Post #8303 meets at 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 7 p.m.

**2ND MON.:** Lowell Board of Education meets 7 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street. (Note: except in April due to spring break which is the 3rd Monday).

**2ND MON.:** Bowne Township Historical Society meets 7:30 at historic museum, 84th/Alden Nash.

**3RD MON.:** Fallsburg Historical Society board meetings at chamber office or Fallsburg, 7 p.m. All invited. Call 897-7161 for info. or location.

**3RD MON.:** Women of the Moose meetings are held at 7:30 p.m.

**3RD MON.:** Peripheral Neuropathy support group, 7 p.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd. Call Dorothy 897-9794.

**3RD MON.:** Lowell Showboat Garden Club meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall at the Church of the Nazarene, N. Washington St., at 7 p.m.

**4TH MON.:** Clark-Ellis American Legion Post 152, 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

**EVERY OTHER MON.:** The Lowell Area Juggling Club meets in the Community room at Englehardt Library, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Anyone 12 or older who can juggle 3 balls is welcome. No dues. Call 897-9879.

### TUESDAYS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops M#372 meets at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Bldg. Weigh-ins are at 5:45 p.m.

Cub Scout Pack 3188 meets at 1st United Methodist Church (as long as there is school), 6:30 p.m. 1st-5th grade boys. Contact Clarence Whittum at 897-8194 after 11 a.m.

Weight Watchers at Alto United Methodist Church, corner of Kirby & Harrison meets at 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hour before meeting. 800-651-6000.

Flat River Woodcarvers meet at LAAC from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Women's Community Bible Study. Free nursery and preschool story hour/craft time 9:45 - 11:15 a.m./women only at 7:15 p.m. Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Call 897-7060 or 897-7555.

**1ST TUES.:** Grattan Historical Society at O'Brien Room of Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. Public invited.

**2ND TUES.:** Diabetic Support group, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Schneider Manor Community Rm., 725 Bowes Rd. 897-2760 or 897-9160.

**MON., APRIL 10:** Masonic Lodge degree practice at Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main, Belding. 7-9 p.m.

**WED., APRIL 12:** Turkey & Dressing dinner at Snow United Methodist Church, 3189 Snow Ave. SE. 5:30 p.m. Adults \$8; children 6-12 \$2; 5 & under are free.

**THUR., APRIL 20:** LARA Open House at Wittenbach/Wege Center. Call Mari Stone at 897-5671.

**SAT., APRIL 22:** Community Garden Exchange at First Baptist Church of Alto, 9-11 a.m. Share flowers/house plants/bulbs/ etc. Call 868-6403 for more info.

**SAT., APRIL 29:** Softball players' open scrimmage against Vintage baseball team at 1 p.m. at Fallsburg Star Village across from schoolhouse. Free - just show up.

### TUESDAYS

**1ST TUES.:** Adults with AD/HD at Calvin College, 7-9 p.m. Call Gary Engle at 897-6325 or 248-2423.

**1ST & 3RD TUES.:** Lowell Lions Club, 12 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. Call 897-5449 for information.

**2ND TUES.:** G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, Plainfield Senior Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. NE. 6:30 p.m. refreshments/ 7 p.m. program Olga 616-975-9977/June 231-780-1249 info.

**2ND & 3RD TUES.:** Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club, 11400 Foreman Rd. at 8 p.m. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org.

**2ND & 4TH TUES.:** MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers... because mothering matters. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. Call 897-8304.

**2ND & 4TH TUES.:** Saranac Needlers, needleart/quilting bee, 5-8:30 p.m., 4 Health Wellness Center, Bridge St., Saranac. All are welcome. Contact Bev or Melissa, 642-6466. Light dinner is provided.

**2ND & 4TH TUES.:** Knights of Columbus #7719 at St. Mary School at 7:30 p.m.

**3RD TUES.:** Parents of children w/AD/HD at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE/E. Beltline) at 7 p.m. Call Linda at 874-5662; teen group: call Sarah at 281-6588.

### WEDNESDAYS

Rotary meets at noon at City Hall, 301 E. Main, 2nd floor.

8 p.m. ALANON upstairs at 1st Congregational Church, 404 N. Hudson St.

Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 6-10 p.m. Larry 754-7104.

**1ST WED.:** GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th St. anytime between 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, walk-ins welcome. Jan 897-5759.

**2ND WED.:** Kent County Youth Fair Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., King Memorial Youth Center, 4-H Fairgrounds. Call 897-6050.

**2ND WED.:** Royal Arch Masons, Hooker Chapter #73 meets at 7:30 p.m. in Belding Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main; dinner at 6:30 p.m. All Royal Arch Masons are welcome.

**2ND WED.:** Lowell Women's Club, noon in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

**2ND WED.:** Support group for Peripheral Neuropathy, 4 p.m., St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church, Grand Rapids. Dorothy 897-9794.

**3RD WED.:** GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th SE anytime bet. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, all levels, walk-ins. Jan 897-5759.

### THURSDAYS

Weight Watchers at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St. 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hr. before the meeting. For info. 1-800-651-6000.

Saranac Area Musicians and Singers practice at Saranac High School Band Rm. Choir: 6-7 p.m./band: 7-8. Kathy Maatman, 897-5981.

**LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM:** Tues., Sat. and Sun. 1-4 p.m.; Thurs., 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individuals \$3; 5-17 \$1.50; members are free. Call 897-7688.

**ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS:** Mon.-Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 9:30-5 p.m.; Sat.: 9:30-1:30 p.m. 200 N. Monroe. Call 647-3920.

**ALTO LIBRARY HOURS:** Mon. & Sat. 9:30 - 1:30 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. 1-5 p.m. 647-3820.

**LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL:** Tues. - Fri.: 12 - 5 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. Monday/a.m. by appt. 149 S. Hudson. Call 897-8545 or www.lowellarts.org.

**LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS:** (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues./Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 & 8-9 p.m.; Sat./Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m.; (NA) Mon./Thurs., 6-7:30 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

**FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT SHOP HOURS:** Wed. - Fri. 12-6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 519 E. Main St. Call 897-2037.

### THURSDAYS

Pottery classes at Franciscan Life Process Center, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 897-7842.

St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis Center, 402 Amity St., non-denominational help for pregnant women/adolescents, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Mondays: 5:30-8 p.m. 897-9393.

**EVERY THURS.:** Alcoholics for Christ - 12 step Recovery Group for alcoholics, drug addicts & family members. 7 p.m. at Impact Church, 1188 Lincoln Lake. Call Paul at 527-7796 for info. Family members call Erin at 527-7796.

**1ST THURS.:** Michigan Hepatitis C Foundation support meetings, 7-8:30 p.m. 250 Cherry, Lacks Cancer Center, Grand Rapids.

**1ST THURS.:** 4-H drama club meeting, Lowell Middle School choir room. Call 897-1502 after 5 p.m.

**1ST & 3RD THURS.:** Alto Lions Club meets at Monterey Grill at 7 p.m.

**1ST & 3RD THURS.:** Bluegrass Jam inside Kountry Korner of Alto, 6077 Linfield. 868-6371.

**2ND & 4TH THURS.:** GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club, 10 - 2 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, all levels, walk-ins welcome. Call Jan 897-5759 for location and information.

**2ND THURS.:** N.A.R.F.E., 1:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton.

**2ND THURS.:** Loyal Order of the Moose, men's meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**2ND THURS.:** Genealogy-Alto Family Tree Club at Alto Library 6:30 - 8 p.m.

**3RD THURS.:** Rubber stamping at Christian Life Center 6-9 p.m. Call Dawn 862-8841.

**3RD THURS.:** VFW #8303 Ladies Auxiliary, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 3 p.m.

**3RD THURS.:** Parents Supporting Parents group, Franciscan Life Process Center. Call 897-7842.

**3RD THURS.:** LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade, Lowell 6:30 p.m. socializing; meeting 7. Support for pregnant/breastfeeding women, Ada 752-8300.

### FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

**1ST & 3RD FRI.:** Teen MOPS support group for pregnant teens and teen moms, 9:15 - 11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. 897-8304.

**FRI.:** Arts/Crafts volunteers, Franciscan Life Process Center, 9:30-12:30 p.m. Pat or Judy at 897-7842.

**2ND SAT.:** Ada Historical Society, 10:30 a.m. at Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

**2ND SAT.:** Lowell Amateur Radio Club, held at Lowell Airport, 730 Lincoln Lake NE. 9 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

**FRI., SAT. & SUN.:** Averill Historical Museum of Ada, located at 7144 Headley. Hours are 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Call 676-9346.

**SUN.:** Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 12-5 p.m. Call Larry at 754-7104. Public welcome.

## Lowell ballerina headed to Europe with summer arts school

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, just north of Muskegon, will send six performing groups to tour Europe in June and July.

Nearly 350 talented participants and staff will take part in the West Michigan summer arts

school's 37th annual European Tour. Blue Lake's International Exchange Program began in 1969.

From the Lowell area is Marissa Endress, who will be participating in the 2006 Blue Lake Ballet. She is the daughter of Mark and

Melissa Endress and will be a sophomore at Lowell High School next fall.

Each group will visit seven communities in two or more countries while in Europe and will tour separately. The countries include Austria,

Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Italy.

In return, Blue Lake and nearly 50 Michigan communities will host 11 European groups that will visit Michigan in April-October.

The six Blue Lake jazz band, and a 42-member Ballet Ensemble.

Blue Lake opened in 1966 and offers programs in dance, art and theater, as well as music. Marissa Endress will participate in the 2006 Blue Lake Ballet this summer.

## Elk antler found washed up at state park sparks mystery

A Canadian provincial park naturalist was strolling on the beach at Hoffmaster State Park near Muskegon in November 2004 as part of the National Association of Interpretation tour and dinner at the park. About 100 feet from the edge of the water, he spotted an antler, with a bit of skull still attached. Pulling it out of the sand, it was obvious that the antler was quite old.

John Halsey, the state's historian who works for the Department of History, Arts and Libraries, visited the site after the discovery for clues or artifacts. He said it was obvious based on the condition of the antler that it had been in a wet area for a long time, likely just offshore where it was located. It was found sticking up out of sand that had been deposited in that stretch of beach within days of it being located, he said.

Years of low water levels in the Great Lakes have, in many locations, unearthed buried artifacts. Thousands of people walk the Great Lakes shores every year, but few know of the buried artifacts below the surface, often partially exposed as water and wind reshape the beaches. There have been multiple reports of finding old ship timbers after big storms. However, an Eastern Elk antler was unusual, if not rare. The antler was found a week after high winds and waves reshaped Hoffmaster's beach and small foredunes.

The antler was sent to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor for analysis. Paleontologists determined it was an antler from an

Eastern Elk, which had been extinct since the 1880s.

The antler was carefully packaged and sent to Darden Hood at Beta Analytic, Inc. in Florida for radio-carbon dating to obtain the age of an item based on its organic material. Radioactive carbon, produced when Carbon 14 in the atmosphere is bombarded by cosmic rays, drifts down to earth and is absorbed by plants through the air. Animals, in turn, eat the plants, taking Carbon 14 into their bodies. When an organism dies, their body stops absorbing Carbon 14 and the carbon begins to decay.

Hood dated the antler to approximately 1650, give or take 30 years. This means the elk was roaming the shores of Lake Michigan about the same time when the Pilgrims were struggling to survive in Plymouth, Massachusetts, and the Black Plague was killing 70,000 people in England.

With an approximate date established, a theory started to form about how the antler ended up on the shores of Hoffmaster State Park. The antler appeared to be old and the base indicated it had come from a dead elk.

The shoreline of Michigan has changed

dramatically since the 1600s, and much of what today is sand dunes at Hoffmaster were once wetlands and forests. The most common theory is that this elk antler was buried in the wetlands and forests that are now covered by Lake Michigan. As lake levels changed and sand dunes formed, the antler moved from beneath Lake Michigan to being buried in a sand dune. Continued changes in dune formation caused the antler to be exposed and eventually discovered.

The Eastern Elk was at one time numerous and extensive in North America. Its range included Ontario, southern Quebec and much of the Eastern U.S., except for New England and Florida. Early accounts about Eastern Elk mentioned its wide and extensive range, saying that you could measure it by the number of counties, towns, creeks and rivers named after it, such as Elk Rapids, Michigan. By the beginning of the 19th century, human population pressures, loss of habitat, demand for elk meat and the sport of "running down elk by horseback" had taken their toll. The animal was declared extinct by 1880.

There were six species of North American elk:

Eastern Elk, Roosevelt Elk, Tule or California Elk, Rocky Mountain Elk, Merriam Elk and Manitoba Elk. The Eastern, along with the Merriam, are now extinct.

Michigan's elk herd, centered in the Pigeon River Country State Forest area in the northeastern Lower Peninsula, dates back to 1918, when seven Rocky Mountain Elk were released near Wolverine. From that reintroduction, the number of animals grew steadily reaching approximately 1,500 in the early 1960s. Limited elk hunting was introduced in Michigan in 1964 and 1965, and to this day remains one of the most sought-after hunting experiences in Michigan.

Today, the Eastern Elk antler is being prepared for permanent display at the Gillette Visitor Center at Hoffmaster State Park.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has helped secure the artifact in a special preservation case.

## Financial Focus, continued ... From Page 15

• Durable General Power of Attorney - This document allows you to appoint another person to conduct your business affairs if you are physically or mentally unable to manage them yourself.

Start Planning Early It will take some effort to create an appropriate retirement income stream and to transfer your wealth in the way that you envision. So, start thinking about these matters soon - the more time you put into your plans, the better the results are likely to be.

## RENT TO OWN

3 bedroom, 2 bath.  
Friendly neighborhood.  
Payments could be less than rent.  
Perfect credit not required.

FREE 24 HOUR RECORDED MESSAGE  
1-800-237-6581 Ext. 201

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

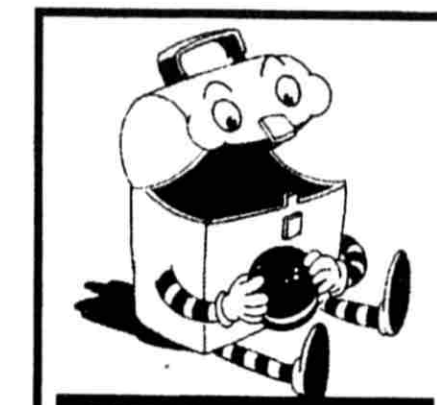
The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider amendments to Section 4.3.2 of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance regarding landscaping. The specific amendments would in part: require specific landscaping requirements for greenbelts between residential and non-residential uses; require replacement of dead plantings; require front yard and parking lot landscaping for non-residential uses; stipulate standards for berms and fences used for screening of non-residential uses; and allow the Planning Commission to modify the landscaping requirements according to certain criteria. These landscape regulations do not apply to single and two-family dwellings.

The hearing will be held as follows:

**WHEN:** MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2006  
**TIME:** 7:00 P.M.  
**WHERE:** LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL  
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE  
LOWELL, MI 49331

The proposed amendments are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

TIM CLEMENTS, SECRETARY  
Lowell Charter Township  
Planning Commission



**LUNCH MENU**  
ELEMENTARY MENU  
Week of April 10, 2006

**MON:** Corndog (Cheeseburger on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), green beans, assorted fruit, milk.

**TUES:** Chicken patty on bun (chili w/crackers also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), carrots & dip, fruited gelatin salad, milk.

**WED:** Spaghetti & meat sauce w/garlic breadstick (stacked ham/cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), tossed salad, pineapple, milk.

**THURS:** Pizza bagel (sloppy jo on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), whole kernel corn, assorted fruit, milk.

**FRI:** Good Friday - No School.

## LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

All Proposals Must Be Submitted No Later Than April 21, 2006 to be considered.

To receive a grant application form call Kate Luckert, program director at 616-454-1751 or download an application from the website at: [www.grfoundation.org/lowell](http://www.grfoundation.org/lowell) You may also pick up an application at any of the following locations: Lowell Township Hall, Vergennes Township Hall, City Offices of Lowell, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the Englehardt Public Library or any Lowell Area School.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

WE ACCEPT



Phone Orders Welcome  
Lowell Ledger  
897-9261



# DEQ resolves water quality violations at Alto dairy farm

The Department of Environmental Quality recently announced that it has entered into an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) with Swisslane Dairy Farms, Inc., a large concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) in Alto. The ACO resolves an enforcement action taken

after Swisslane experienced its fourth documented discharge at Pratt Lake Creek, a tributary to Tyler Creek within the Coldwater River Watershed.

Discharges of nutrients, pathogens, and organic materials such as those that occurred at Swisslane have long been recognized by the

DEQ as a significant cause of water quality impairment in the state.

While the ACO was being negotiated, Swisslane installed two additional large storage structures to contain manure and other wastewater produced at its dairy operation. Swisslane also agreed to develop a

Storm Water Management Plan for the purpose of ensuring that all clean production area storm water is properly diverted and all storm water that comes in contact with polluting materials is effectively contained and managed.

"It's encouraging to see owners of large farms step

up to the plate and make necessary improvements to their operations in order to ensure our water resources are not being put at risk," said DEQ director Steven E. Chester. "This demonstrates that by working together, we can both promote agriculture and protect Michigan's environment."

Swisslane has also agreed to pay a civil fine of \$15,000 to the state's general fund and will also partially reimburse the DEQ for \$2,000 in enforcement costs. Swisslane further agreed to pay additional amounts to the general fund should future violations of settlement terms occur.

# Multiplying houseplants: a three-step, springtime process

Spring is a good time to think about multiplying your plants.

The keys to propagating houseplants are to start with healthy plants, choose the appropriate propagation method and provide a suitable environment. Because you can propagate plant diseases as well as plants, you need to start with healthy plants to avoid propagating problems.

Choosing healthy plants also increases your chances of successes. Cuttings from healthy plants, for instance, are more likely to establish roots and grow on their own than cuttings from sickly parent plants.

Choosing the right propagation method is absolutely critical with some plants, which can be multiplied by only one method. Others can be propagated equally well by more than one method. African violets, for instance, can be grown from seed or from leaf cuttings and crown divisions. Bromeliads are generally propagated only by removing offsets and a good section of roots from the parent plant. And Norfolk Island pine is one

of a few houseplants not recommended for home propagation.

All plant propagation methods fall into two categories - sexual and asexual, or vegetative. Sexual propagation is simply growing plants from seeds formed from the union of a male sex cell (sperm) and a female sex cell (egg). Vegetative propagation is growing plants from other plant parts, usually leaves or stems.

Seeds and newly started plants generally need warm temperatures, high humidity and reduced light for good germination and successful rooting.

High humidity reduces water loss from leaves so cuttings don't wilt and dry out before they have a chance to grow roots. It also keeps the propagating medium from drying out so quickly. A clear cover - such as plastic wrap, a clear plastic bag or a large glass jar - keeps the air around plants moist and lets light in. It also makes it easy to check for emerging seedlings, wilting or other signs of trouble.

That medium is another aspect of the environment for

seeds and cuttings. It needs to be well drained but able to hold moisture. Plant roots need air as well as water, so the medium needs to be able to remain moist without being saturated - so full of water that the air is driven out. Mixtures of organic materials such as peat or

sphagnum, which have good water-holding capacity and aggregates such as sand, perlite or vermiculite for aeration and good drainage, usually give good results.

Because the warm, humid conditions that favor germination and rooting also favor the rapid growth

of disease organisms, media used for plant propagation should be sterile - free of bacteria, fungi and other organisms that cause plant diseases. Containers and tools must likewise be cleaned and sanitized before they're used. Containers should have drainage holes

in the bottom to allow excess water to move away from plant roots.

Indirect light is best until seedlings or cuttings get well established. Direct sunlight will damage or kill seedlings or cuttings enclosed in glass or plastic.

# Outdoor gardening can help get you fit

If gardening is your pastime, it can also turn into a vigorous exercise routine, say Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network.

Pushing a lawn mower or garden cart, hoeing, planting or trimming shrubbery and other chores in your garden is great exercise, and research suggests that 45 minutes of gardening burns as many calories as 30 minutes of moderately strenuous aerobics. Besides great looking flower beds, you'll enjoy the bonuses of lowered blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Here are some tips to

make your experience a relaxing one:

- Start your gardening as you would any exercise regimen, by stretching. Limbering up major muscle groups such as legs, shoulders, arms, neck and back will help prevent pulled muscles or other injuries.

- When picking up heavy items, remember gardening's No. 1 rule: Don't bend from the waist; bend at the knees, and don't feel you have to move everything at once. Use proper tools such as wheelbarrows to pick up and transport bags of topsoil, peat, shrubs or chipped wood.

- Good tools, including quality hand cultivators and pruning shears, will pay you back many times over with good service. And protect your hands against splinters, thorns, poison ivy, and biting insects with good long-sleeved leather gardening gloves; also wear long pants, purchase a comfortable pair of knee pads, or a closed cell foam gardening pad.

- Garden "putters" with knee or other joint replacements can keep on cultivating their hobby by using wheeled toolboxes with built-in seats that allow plenty of access to the soil

and keep all you need handy at the same time.

- Wear large-brimmed hats to shade your neck against sunburn and insect repellent with sunscreen. Use anti-poison ivy lotion if you think you will be exposed.

- If you're not an organic farmer, read all garden chemical and pesticide label directions thoroughly before using and follow them precisely. Some are poisonous to pets, others are harmful if inhaled or come in contact with skin for prolonged periods. Others should not be applied before rain or on windy days.

# Sound Off

The Ledger  
"Almost"  
Anything  
Goes Column

www.lowellbuyersguide.com  
Or CALL...897-0787

Thanks for another great Expo, Liz. Your teamwork really paid off.

I was also disappointed that WKAR was replaced with yet another sports channel. Who decides what we can watch and what it is based on?

We (daybreak runners) aren't running from the law... we are running for our LIFE! Since you are up anyway, why don't you come join us?

-BOK

**THE FOODMOBILE**  
MOBILE FOOD PANTRY  
THIS MONTH'S SPONSOR: FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
**FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**  
(mostly produce)  
**LOWELL FAIRGROUNDS**  
Foreman Building, S. Broadway  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2006**  
10:00 TO 11:00 A.M. (or until food is gone)  
Distributed by  
**Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.**  
(FROM)  
**AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER LOWELL AREA.**  
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Visit our website at  
[www.flatriveroutreachministries.org](http://www.flatriveroutreachministries.org)

**OPEN HOUSE**  
12716 3 MILE RD.  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 8 FROM 2-4**



Classic farm house with new addition. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, central air, 7.3 acres with pole barn. Professional landscaping, with underground sprinkling. FREE LEASE OF 100 ACRES OF PRIME BIG BUCK HUNTING WITH PURCHASE OF HOME. Come see it for yourself or call Andy with Five Star Real Estate at 204-3615 to set up a showing.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR RENT HELP WANTED CARD OF THANKS SERVICES

**YELLOW LABS - AKC, wormed, dewclaws, first shots, parents on site, \$250-\$300. Call 890-2963.**

**MATTRESS/BOX SPRINGS - Brand new, \$69/set. Twin, full, queen, delivery available. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.**

**CAMERAS - Nikon 6006 SLR auto focus body, \$125. Nikkor AF micro lens 105mm \$75; Olympus Zuiko SLR lenses. Macro & zoom, \$75 ea. 897-7617.**

**FOR SALE BY OWNER - Ionia, 2 bedroom, large kitchen & living, 2 car garage, 800 Forest St. \$97,500 obo. Call 616-940-3648.**

**BERBER CARPET - 80 yards, beige color, bought, never used. Cost \$800, sell \$295. 989-534-1082.**

**RABBIT CAGES FOR SALE - rabbits for sale & baby bunnies; Lionheads, Lops, Dutch & mini Rex dwarfs, & other breeds. 616-691-6619.**

**KING FOUR POST BED - Solid wood w/pillowtop mattress (bought new, never used). Cost \$1,000, sell \$195. 616-318-1974.**

**FOR SALE - Horse barn stall doors, 4-with tracks, tongue & groove lower, mesh panel top. Make offer 616-942-9957.**

**1993 SATURN SC2 - teal, 5 spd, PW, PL, CC, pwr sunroof, CD, 30+ mpg, runs great, \$1,300. 517-902-5256.**

**BOB'S ANNUAL BIRD-HOUSE SALE - Think spring! Welcome your favorite birds back with a fresh new birdhouse. Nice selection of bluebird, wren, & bat houses. Various styles. Top quality materials & workmanship at the best prices anywhere. Bob's Bird Houses, 12279 60th St., Alto, 868-6633.**

**BED & MATTRESS SET - Queen pillowtop (new, in plastic), never used, comes with warranty, \$125. Call 517-719-8062.**

**FOR SALE - 1973 Johnson 4HP outboard. Good condition, includes fuel tank & service manual, \$400. 616-897-3081.**

**\$175 CHERRY SLEIGH BED - Queen w/pillowtop mattress set (never used), \$175. Call 517-719-8062.**

**GOLF BALLS FOR SALE - All in perfect condition with no scuff marks. Assorted brands now only 25¢. Practice balls 50 for \$5. Call 897-1355.**

**FOR SALE - 1998 Chrysler Sebring LX, 2 door, automatic, PW, PL, chrome wheels, 76,900 miles, \$4,500 obo. Call 891-0479.**

**GOLF BALLS FOR SALE - Previously experienced all in perfect condition - Titleist & Precept, \$6 per doz.; Pinnacle & Nike, \$5 per doz.; Top-Flite, \$4 per doz. or 3 doz. for \$10. Many other brands also. Call 897-1355.**

**JONBOAT FOR SALE - 12', 2006, brand new, never used, \$500. 517-526-0279.**

**2001 DODGE RAM 1500 - Sport, 4x4, quad cab, new tires, bedliner, like new, only 60,000 miles. Must see! \$12,400 obo. 616-897-8279.**

**2006 DEER RUN GOLF CLUB PREFERRED PLAYERS PASS - Pass includes: 4 free greens fees; 4 free weekday greens fees (Buy One Get One - BOGO), 4 free weekend greens fees (BOGO), 5 free buckets of range balls (BOGO) & \$10 off Pro Shop merchandise. A \$625 value - all for only \$50. Great Gift Idea! AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE OFFICE OR contact Jay at 897-1355.**

**HOUSE FOR SALE - in Lowell on 4 acres, 1,629 sq. ft. ranch, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 6 years old, lots of extras. \$255,000. Call for appointment. 897-9910.**

**2002 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED - 4x4, V8, \$13,500. 517-605-4970.**

**ENTRANCE DOOR - Douglas Fir, 9 lite, 36 x 80 x 1 3/4, new. \$225 obo. 897-7617.**

**TELESCOPE - Meade ETX-125 EC, autostar. Plus accessory eye pieces. \$650. 897-7617.**

**MOBILE HOME FOR SALE - in the country. \$1000. All hooked up to all utilities. Needs work. Call Ron, 897-6757.**

**NEW HOMES FROM THE \$150's - in Oakfeather Farms. Contact Travis Miller, 616-292-6826.**

**MURRAY LAKE - Enjoy Murray Lake from Gazen Hill Park which is open to the residents of Murray Lake Ave. and is just up the street. Nice sandy beach, picnic area, day docking for boats & volleyball area. Large master suite, 2 other bedrooms and a full bath, nice living room and a kitchen with plenty of cabinetry. Also offers a 2 stall garage/workshop. You can't get Murray Lake access for less than this! \$139,900 Patrick Schaefer Five Star Lowell 581-7580 patschaefer.com.**

**FIREWOOD - All hardwood, split & delivered, \$75 truck load (approx. 1 1/2 face cord). Vosburg Farm 676-1047.**

**ATTENTION BUYERS GUIDE READERS - We've had some complaints in regards to the Buyers Guide not being delivered until late Sunday evening. To clear up confusion - our carriers can deliver the paper anytime over the weekend, as long as everyone has it Monday morning as the paper is dated for Monday.**

**USED TIRES - Take offs, hundreds to choose from, like new, reasonable prices, mounted and balanced. Call 292-7649.**

**FOR RENT - 2 bedroom home in Ionia now available. Washer/dryer hookup, stove & refrigerator included, \$550 a month, \$300 deposit plus heat & electric. 754-0578.**

**HALL FOR RENT - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050.**

**LOWELL - \$400 moves you in. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Garage. Washer/dryer connections. Vaulted ceilings. Walk-in closets. \$660/mo. 8 6 6 - 4 4 3 - 3 0 9 8. www.wmpmonline.com. Stoneridge Apartments.**

**FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers in Lowell. \$400, \$420 per mo. plus 1 mo. rent deposit. No dogs please. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276.**

**HOUSE FOR RENT - 3 bedroom in Lowell, \$800 per mo. + all utilities. Call 897-9357.**

**18x40 TENT RENTAL - Perfect for open houses & outdoor events. \$175 set up included! Call today, calendar fills quickly! 987-9160.**

**HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.**

**DUPLEX FOR RENT - 2 bedroom with attached garage in Lowell - beautiful home, like new, low utility costs, references required, \$925. Please call 293-0128.**

**LIKE FISHING IN MAY & JUNE? - Cottage rental on Murray Lake, sleeps 6. For week or weekend. Possible summer rental also available. Ph. 616-583-0110.**

**APARTMENT - large 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 baths, (cats ok), \$675 + utilities, Alto area. 616-891-1840.**

**APARTMENT FOR RENT - Upper 2 bedroom downtown Lowell, \$600 a month plus gas & elec., no pets, \$300 deposit, must have good credit references. Call 616-897-1140.**

**FOR RENT - 1,800 sq. ft. fully finished pole building, insulated, concrete floors, newer gas furnace. Electric included. \$500/mo. + heating. Call 897-6820.**

**FREE 3-Year Tax Review - We find errors & missed deductions on personal and small business returns. Go to [www.itaxback.com/khuisman](http://www.itaxback.com/khuisman) for more information.**

**GUINEA PIGS - free to good home, 868-0925.**

**WANTED - PAGING CASH - for your old United States coins, call 616-291-7096.**

**LOOKING FOR - a good manure spreader. Call John Erickson 897-8541.**

**WANTED - MOTORCYCLES, cash paid for road bikes, running or not, 446-8352.**

**DELIVERY DRIVER - CDL-A drivers needed. Looking for dependable customer service oriented person w/ chauffer's CDL-B, CDL-A license. Good working environment. Also hiring nights/weekends. 616-248-7729.**

**INTERNATIONAL COMPANY NEEDS LOCAL SUPERVISORS & CUSTOMER SERVICE HELP - Free local training & support. Free info at [www.LeadersNeeded.com](http://www.LeadersNeeded.com) or call 868-7551 & ask for Cheryl.**

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & RECEIVABLE - Seeking candidate with 2+ years experience with A/P and A/R, excellent customer service skills, well organized, and detail oriented. Word, Excel and Peachtree knowledge preferred but will train. ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for Line Operator, Hand Buff, and Polishing. Apply in person at Blough, Inc. at 9885 Centerline Rd. in Lowell between 8 am - 4 pm.**

**NEW - Local company looking for 16 men/women to shampoo carpets. Must call immediately! Call for interview 616-475-6603.**

**SALES - Closing print shop office, printing equipment, and misc. stuff. Friday, April 7 & Saturday, April 8 from 9 am to 4 pm. R.J. Graphics - 132 S. Hudson.**

**LOST - White gold cross necklace with diamonds. Lost at Cher's on 3/27/06. Very sentimental. Reward. 987-9106.**

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**ARE HOUSE EXPENSES GETTING WAY TOO HIGH - thinking of downsizing? Let me help you see the full potential in selling your current home & purchasing the home that meets your current economic needs. Reduce heating costs, taxes & other uncontrollable costs. Call Peter Smith at Re/Max SunQuest to help you & your real estate needs when you need them most. Office 949-6980 ext. 27 or my cell 460-6634.**

**WATSON'S HANDY-MAN SERVICES - Basement remodels, doors, drywall, garages, decks & much more. Small jobs welcome. Honest & dependable. Call 897-6906.**

**NEED A DUMPSTER? - Spring Cleanup, roofing, trash, junk etc. 14 to 20 yards available. Call for free estimates. 616-835-2238.**

**STEPEK WELDING & REPAIR LLC - Custom fabrication & weld repair. Mild steel, stainless & aluminum. On or off site welding. Call Tim at 616-322-8967 or 616-868-6215.**

**PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - By certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.**

**BOB FORD - Formerly of Hahn Hardware, is doing all kinds of service work. Call 299-3198.**

**JOHN SCHLOOP BUILDER - New homes, additions & remodeling. Call 897-1335.**

**POWER WASHING - Decks, docks, fencing, patios, commercial work, free estimates & insured. Mike 616-821-7139.**

**HOUSE CLEANING - Rachel's Cleaning. For a reasonable price call 616-642-9891.**

**BUSINESS CARDS - For as little as \$26 for 250. (white card stock, black ink). Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.**

**THE family of GLADYS THORNE would like to thank all who made calls, sent cards & flowers during the time of Gladys' passing. We would also like to give a special thank you to Dr. Michael Conklin of First United Methodist Church for his kind words of comfort and the wonderful service celebrating Gladys' life; to organist Bill Zinke for his special music; to the ladies of First United Methodist Church for their wonderful luncheon; and to Mark & Dave Gerst & staff at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home for all of their help in planning the service.**

**JOSEPH C. VEZINO 6/11/1927 - 3/22/2006**  
We extend a card of thanks to all our friends and relatives for their support during Joe's long battle with cancer. And for your continued support after he departed. For all of the cards, flowers, masses, and consoling words we thank you. We especially would like to thank Fr. Fekete, Fr. Lou Anderson, Dr. John Mogor, Hospice and Visiting Nurses, and the ladies at St. Mary's for the great luncheon.  
The Vezino family

**ALTERATIONS - Experienced professional men's, women's, leather coats, all fabrics, zippers replaced, wedding & prom dresses altered. Call Helen 897-6071.**

**ALTO AREA DAY CARE - has summer openings for full & part time, 1st shift only, scheduled activities, CPR licensed. 868-0752.**

**LOOKING FOR an online business? - <http://www.automaticbuilder.com/mydream>.**

**PLUMBER - Experienced. Residential Service or New Construction. Reasonable rates. Call 897-2575.**

**JOHN DEBIAK HORSESHOEING & HOOF TRIMMING - Serving the Greater Kent/Ionia County area with 15 years of professional, full-time experience. Call 897-4290.**

**COPY SERVICE, FAX SERVICE, LAMINATING, UPS SHIPPING & MORE AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER M-Th. 8-5 p.m. Fri. 8-4 p.m. 105 N. Broadway Ph. 897-9261 Fax 897-4809**

**EVENTS - ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT-FISH-FRY - Every Friday now thru April 14, serving 4-9 p.m. Also serving all-you-can-eat spaghetti & meatballs. Deer Run Golf Club, Cascade Rd., Lowell. For reservations, 897-8481.**

**SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - at 3189 Snow Ave. SE will serve a family style turkey & dressing dinner on Wed., April 12, starting at 5:30 p.m. Adults are \$8; children 6-12 are \$2 & children 5 & under are free.**

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**PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - By certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.**

**LOWELL MOOSE Easter Egg Hunt**  
Saturday April 8th  
CREEKSIDE PARK

1-2 YR. OLD.....11:00 A.M.  
3 YR. OLD.....11:00 A.M.  
4-5 YR. OLD.....11:45 A.M.  
7-8 YR. OLD.....12:30 P.M.

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# Fundraising dinner first chance to purchase history book

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell Area Historical Museum's pictorial history book to celebrate Lowell's 175th birthday is almost ready. In fact, it is already at the printer. The museum will unveil the book, titled "Where the Rivers Meet: A Pictorial Journey Through Historic Lowell," Friday, April 28 at their "Antique Treasures" fundraising dinner. The book should provide people with a new perspective on Lowell's history.

"We have found some wonderful old photographs that most of our public has not seen," said museum executive director Judy Straub. "It really is a way to commemorate this 175th anniversary of our community."

The book contains 160 pages and more than 250 black and white photographs. It is a project that has been

on the back burner at the museum, waiting for the right occasion.

"(Board member) Dan Pipe has wanted to do a pictorial history for a long time," Straub said.

When the board met to discuss how to properly recognize the 175th anniversary last December, and decided the pictorial history was a good way to do it, it put the project on the front burner at the highest setting. Museum volunteers have spent hours over the past four months pouring over photographs

in the museum's archives and writing captions. The museum hired Mandolin Design in Lowell to put the book together.

The April 28 event is both a dinner and antiques appraisal event. It will be held at Deer Run Golf Club. Admission is \$25 and includes dinner and an appraisal by Glen Rahrig of any antique other than jewelry, coins or stamps. Time constraints will prevent appraisal of the above listed items.

Seating is limited to 200 people. Contact the

museum at 897-7688 for more information.

The museum is also holding a raffle with tickets \$3 each or four for \$10. First prize is a mahogany bench made by Superior Furniture in Lowell. Second prize is a two-night stay at the Nickerson Historic Bed and Breakfast, located at 262 West Lowell Street in Pentwater. Third prize is lunch for four at the Flat River Grill, followed by a personal historical tour of downtown Lowell given by Luann Kaeb.

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